

SPORTS:  
Women's  
soccer goes  
3-1 in their  
four-game  
roadtrip,  
page 7.



# The Flat Hat

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 VOL.96, NO.4

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

## Starbucks may begin Williamsburg redevelopment

### College Delly to become Starbucks

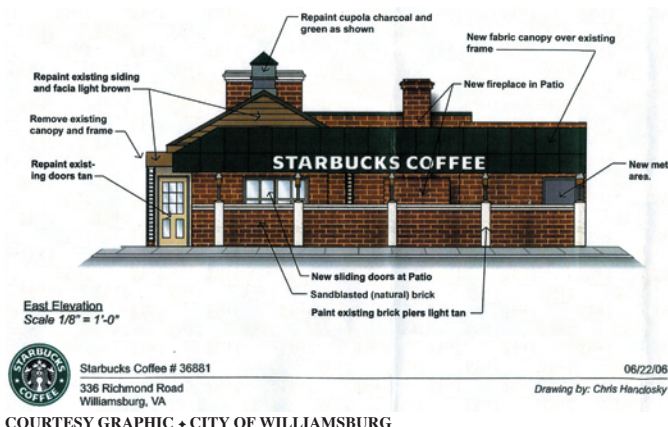
BY JOSHUA PINKERTON  
FLAT HAT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The College Delly is slated to be replaced by a Starbucks, according plans filed with the Williamsburg Planning Department. A final deal has not been signed, but planning for the conversion has been in the works since June and negotiations are ongoing, according to representatives of Starbucks and Delly owner Constantine Tsamouras. The plan has sparked a negative reaction from some members of the College community.

Plans show the building and parking lot, built in 1940, will be kept, but the white brick will be sandblasted and a brick fireplace added to the outside patio. A new fabric canopy,

sliding doors and new paint colors will also be added to the exterior.

A final agreement has not been reached, but Tsamouras said he is interested in removing himself from the day-to-day management of the property. Tsamouras was approached by Starbucks and has received several offers to lease the property in recent years, a College Delly employee said.



COURTESY GRAPHIC • CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG

*The Williamsburg Planning Department released architectural drawings of the new Starbucks, which is slated to replace the College Delly.*

"I'm getting older; I've done a lot. I need to slow down and find some security for my family," Tsamouras, who also owns the Yorktown Pub and Waterstreet Landing restaurants in Yorktown, said. "I think [the College Delly] needs new energy, and I don't have that energy anymore."

"Other suitors are perfectly

**See STARBUCKS + page 3**

### City eyes more student-friendly businesses

BY BENJAMIN LOCHER  
THE FLAT HAT

City representatives are promising more retail and entertainment venues for students in the Richmond Road area, but little is currently known about exactly what businesses may be included in the projects. A complex called High Street Williamsburg, first reported on by The Flat Hat in March 2002, is finally under construction, while work continues on a project near Scotland Road and Braxton Court. Additional development could be possible at the current Richmond Road locations of the Tioga Motel and the Southern Inn, both of which are up for

sale, according to city officials. "What we've heard from the College makes sense to us," Williamsburg Economic Development Manager Michele DeWitt said. "A year ago a survey of William and Mary students showed that they were looking for more retail opportunities. Students are half of our population. They are real important to us, so we really want to work with them."

The largest project, High Street Williamsburg, will be adjacent to the former Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital building, which is currently being converted to the College's School of Education. The High Street project will couple a residential neighborhood with a retail-based city center. "The retail village at High Street promises to serve as the heart and soul for the entire development," the project's website reads. "Paying

**See BUSINESSES + page 3**

## Commonwealth fails education affordability study

BY KATIE PHOTIADIS  
THE FLAT HAT

The nonpartisan National Center for Public Policy's report, "Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education," gave Virginia, along with 43 other states, an "F" grade in affordability.

The report card graded each state on participation, preparation, affordability, completion, benefits and learning. While Virginia scored well in the other categories, the report suggests that higher education in Virginia is not affordable for many students.

College fees have risen nationally by 375 percent since the early 1980s, the Sept. 8 edition of the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. Along with the increase in tuition, Virginia has dramatically cut its aid to college students in the past 20 years. According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in 1981, Virginia paid 72 percent of each student's education, while in 2006, the state pays less than 45 percent of each student's education.

The report said that for students from low- to middle-income families, the total cost of college (tuition, room and board) is now 41 percent of the families' income. Many families are unable to spend nearly half of their income on their child's education.

"Obviously, the lower income students are going to have more of a challenge to go to school," Dan Hix, finance director for the National Center for Public Policy, said.

College Director of Financial Aid Ed Irish said that lower-income students are given the means necessary to be able to afford the College.

According to Irish, 51 percent of students at the College receive some kind of financial aid, either in grants or loans.

Additionally, the College recently implemented the Gateway program, which allows students from low- to middle-income families to receive grants and loans that pay for 100 percent of their financial need, based on their FAFSA.

However, Irish said he was concerned by the growing cost of college and the immense challenges that many students face.

"Everybody is concerned about the low- to mid-income students who are not going to college," he said.

The Virginia General Assembly has made some effort to fix the problem. Prior to the 2006 legislative session, SCHEV estimated the commonwealth would need to increase financial aid funding by \$377 million; however, in its June session, the General Assembly agreed to allocate \$233 million for higher education financial aid. While many advocates for increased student aid appreciate the funding, some are frustrated by the state's refusal to grant the full \$377 million.

"[Virginia] cannot compete in the 21st century global economy without affordable education," Kelly Porell, '05, the executive

**See AFFORDABILITY + page 3**

### HONORING SEPT. 11



ANDREW SCHMADEL • THE FLAT HAT

*Members of the Queen's Guard patrolled the Sunken Garden all day Sept. 11 to mark the five-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives and the lives of seven College alumni.*

## College memorializes 9/11 with tributes to unity, fallen alumni

BY NIK BELANGER  
THE FLAT HAT

Last Monday, members of the College community remembered the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 by honoring those who lost their lives in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.

The memorial included a 3,000-flag display in the Sunken Garden, the chiming of the Wren bells and a ceremony and candlelight vigil in the Wren courtyard.

The memorial, spearheaded

by vigil co-hosts Scott Brown and Michael Reed, both seniors and members of Students Defending Democracies, received sponsorship and assistance from groups across campus.

The 3,000-flag display in the east end of the Sunken Garden, a bipartisan effort of the Young Democrats and College Republicans, publicly honored every life lost. The Queen's Guard stood watch over the flags throughout the day.

Later in the day, the Student

**See 9/11 + page 3**



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

*Nearly 3,000 flags were placed in the Sunken Gardens on 9/11.*

## City rules only 3 may live in SAE alumni house



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

*A request to allow more than three residents live in the house at 349 Scotland St. was denied Sept. 5 by the Williamsburg Board of Zoning Appeals.*

BY ANGELA COTA  
THE FLAT HAT

The City of Williamsburg's Board of Zoning Appeals denied junior Patrick Palfrey's request to rezone his residence at 349 Scotland St. at a meeting Sept. 5.

Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, including Palfrey, currently occupy the house. According to SAE alum senior Greg Marlow, the occupants are students at the College and are considered SAE alumni because they lost their official charter in the fall of 2004.

Williamsburg Zoning Adminis-

trator Rodney Rhodes said the council feared that granting the request would decrease local property values.

"Rental property is often not maintained to the same standard as other property," Rhodes said.

Palfrey applied for a special exception to zoning ordinance 21-605 C, also known as the "three-person rule," which states that no more than three unrelated people can inhabit the same dwelling. He requested to rent out a bedroom to accommodate two people, in addition to those already in the house.

"A request for a special excep-

tion can be made by the owner-occupant of the dwelling," Williamsburg Planning Director Reed Nester said. "The student here wished to get permission for a total of five people and was denied the request."

This house is located off-campus. It is therefore required to abide by the three-person rule. Housing facilities on campus, including fraternity and sorority houses, are owned and operated by the College, Assistant Student Activities Director Anne Arsenneau.

Palfrey was uncertain as to why

**See HOUSE + page 4**

VARIETY:  
The Muscarelle hosts a unique exhibit of floral arrangements inspired by art on display, page 7.

REVIEWS:  
Gym wear sparks an important fashion discussion, page 11.

## SA to provide free blue books

BY MORGAN FIGA  
THE FLAT HAT

The Student Assembly Senate passed the Free Blue Books Act in their session Tuesday. The bill appropriates \$5,000 from the student activities consolidated reserves fund to purchase 20,000 blue books per year. These blue books will be distributed by individual academic department secretaries during midterm and final exams. The inside front cover of each blue book will have the department's name, the words "provided by the SA" and a copy of the honor code.

The stated purpose of the bill was to alleviate stress during exam time and help increase student convenience. Each department will have to communicate with the SA as to how many blue books are needed each semester. The cost of each blue book to the SA is \$0.25. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Victor Sulkowski, a senior, passed unanimously after minimal floor debate.

SA Vice President Amanda Norris, a senior, said she was glad to have the bill finally passed. The bill, she said, had been in some form of consideration since her freshman year.

"Almost all other undergraduate schools have [free blue books] for students. It makes students' lives easier," Norris said.

Sulkowski and Sen. Zach Pilchen, a sophomore, proposed the Defense of Night Life Act that was sent to the public affairs committee. The bill was proposed in response to the plans to turn The College Delly into a Starbucks. Sulkowski said that the SA should be involved in making a stand to help preserve the Delly.

Pilchen agreed, specifying that the issue went beyond Starbucks and the Delly. He said that student-friendly businesses were being condensed.

"Students need to realize, despite whatever has been reported, the future of the College lays in your hands," Sulkowski said.

Despite his commitment to the bill, Sulkowski later said in an e-mail that he has decided to abstain from any other votes about the bill because his "financial investment in the weekly Blue Caterpillar hookah night could at some point raise questions of a conflict of interest." He also plans to drop his co-sponsorship of the act.

Pilchen also proposed the Freedom of Choice Act, which is intended to establish "gender-blind housing options" for the 2007-2008 school year. The goal is to create housing options that provide a level of comfort

**See SA + page 3**

### Inside

Opinions.....Page 5  
Variety.....Page 7  
Reviews.....Page 11  
Sports.....Page 13

VARIETY:  
WCWM broadcasts radio to students and locals alike. Page 7.



REVIEWS:  
Justin Timberlake's new CD offers a refreshing sound. Page 11



SPORTS:  
Field Hockey garners a no. 17 ranking on the strength of their 5-1 start. Page 12





“We find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve.”

MAXWELL MALTZ  
WWW.QUOTATIONSPAGE.COM

◆ NEWS IN BRIEF ◆

Heron statue recovered from Crim Dell after Ernesto

Tropical Depression Ernesto had a surprise for campus officials searching for a valuable heron statue missing from the Crim Dell since Sept. 1; the statue was in the pond all along.

Campus police suspected that the statue might have fallen into the lake during the storm, but were not certain of its whereabouts.

“The last time that we know the statue was there was on September 1,” Brian Whitson, director of news services for the College, said.

Police searched the grounds around the pond for the heron after it was reported missing Sept. 8, Whitson said. A College maintenance crew finally located the statue submerged in the Crim Dell Wednesday morning.

According to Associate Director of Grounds John McFarlane, “the base of [the statue] was just a metal pipe and [the statue] was bolted to that pipe. We think that either the pipe was corroded and gave way in the storm or someone pushed it over ... and it just fell over into the pond.”

This is not the first time the statue has gone missing. “It went missing about six or seven years ago,” John McFarlane said. “Somehow, it magically reappeared.”

According to Susan Pettyjohn of the Office of University Development and Leslie Atkinson, director of donor relations for the College, the bronze blue heron was created by David Turner, ‘83, and was given by Ben Field, ‘57. Its value was estimated to be between \$8,000 and \$10,000 dollars in the late 1990s but is likely worth more than that now, McFarlane said.

— by andy garden

Homecoming parade theme to be “the Caribbean”

The Alumni Association has eliminated the idea of a homecoming theme, simply calling this year’s celebration “Homecoming 2006”. Only the parade will have a theme, which this year will be “the Caribbean.” The parade committee, instead of the Alumni Association, chose the name.

In previous years, the Alumni Association has chosen a Homecoming theme for the entire weekend, which was used as the topic of the parade float as well as the T-shirts made by the senior class.

Last year, Anne Arseneau, the associate director of student activities, talked with greek life groups about what would entice more students to get involved in the parade. “They had some really great ideas,” Karen Cottrell, the executive vice president of the Alumni Association, said.

Among the criticisms was a complaint that last year’s theme, “Proud Past, Bright Future,” was not float-friendly and it was suggested that students become involved in the theme creation. The parade committee, which is headed by students, was then given the task of choosing the parade theme.

Cottrell explained the creation of the committee, saying, “We are trying to be supportive of a student initiative that we hope will grow in popularity by listening to students.”

The parade committee first considered an orientation activity in which the freshmen would choose the parade theme, but it was “too late in the game,” Faulkner said. The committee finally chose the theme on its own.

This year, the parade will be moved later, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning, in an effort to make the event more popular among students.

Looking forward, Faulkner said, “Maybe we can establish a joint [Alumni Association and parade committee] theme, because if there’s a theme for students to rally around, it makes the experience more enjoyable.”

— by samantha lockhart

Cartoon in U.Va. campus paper offends Christians

Cartoons poking fun at Jesus and Christianity offended many readers of the Cavalier Daily, University of Virginia’s student paper. Although the drawings drew criticism from a New York-based Catholic group, the newspaper’s editors deemed an apology unwarranted.

In the first comic, which appeared in the Aug. 23 issue, student cartoonist Grant Woolard depicts Jesus crucified on a mathematical coordinate plane. The following day, student cartoonists Kellen Eilerts and Eric Kilanski cast Jesus as a childish savior unable to save a woman from a wrecked car. Jesus sens the woman to heaven instead, giving the excuse is that he has never driven a car before. In the same issue, another cartoon by Woolard shows Joseph and Mary in a stable with newborn baby Jesus. Joseph asks Mary about a suspicious rash on her arm, and she replies that it was “immaculately transmitted.”

Michael Slaven, current editor-in-chief of The Cavalier Daily, refused to apologize for the cartoons because they did not violate the paper’s own censorship policy. The guidelines were adopted because the editorial staff “realized the potential for inconsistent censorship and apologies,” Slaven said. “The fact that someone may find [a comic] controversial or offensive is not, by itself, a sufficient reason to censor anyone,” Slaven said in the Sept. 8 edition of The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The response to the cartoons was greater than the student newspaper had expected; the administration at U.Va. received over 2,000 letters, mostly from people offended by the comics.

Because a person’s faith is not an unchangeable trait or characteristic, Woolard believes it is fair game for critique and ridicule. “Religion is something you can choose, unlike homosexuality,” Woolard said in the Sept. 11 edition of The Cavalier Daily.

— by dorothea park

Beyond the ‘Burg

◆ HARVARD U. ABOLISHES  
EARLY ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Harvard University announced Monday that it was abolishing its early admission program and instituting a single admission deadline. William and Mary does not plan to follow suit at this time.

Harvard’s executive board made this decision because it felt that the early admissions option gives students from privileged backgrounds an unfair advantage over others. Affluent high schools often have strong college advising programs that adequately prepare students for early admissions deadlines, leaving students from less privileged backgrounds at a disadvantage.

According to the Aug. 13 edition of the Harvard Crimson, Harvard executives felt that ending early action would benefit high school seniors who need more time to decide which college to attend.

“We feel that if anybody is going to step up and take the lead to try to get rid of something that is really doing more harm than good in high schools across the country, it’s us,” Interim Harvard President Derek C. Bok said.

Harvard’s decision has already opened up new possibilities for admissions deadlines at other universities nationwide. Princeton University now intends to reevaluate its early admission process.

The William and Mary Dean of Admissions Henry Broadus says there is always a chance that the College will switch to a single admission deadline.

“We’re always reevaluating the admissions program,” Broadus said. “We have to figure out what will best serve William and Mary students.”

Broadus added that there are no immediate plans to change any of the College’s admissions practices, and said that he believes there are some benefits to the early action process.

“For the right student, early admission can take away some of the anxiety of this process and some of the unpredictably,” Broadus said. “Why should a student who knows William and Mary is a first choice, or who knows that Harvard is a first choice also apply to the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell and run the possibility of taking away a spot from someone else who is more interested in one of those schools?”

However, Broadus commented that high school students sometimes abuse the early admissions process and apply only because they think it will improve their odds of admission.

While the early admission rate of 46 percent at the College is higher than the overall admission rate of 31 percent, Broadus said that students in each pool are evaluated in the same way. He explained that the early action pool is often stronger than the regular pool, emphasizing that the difference in admissions rates is not a reflection of the College looking more favorably on early action applicants.

“For now, we feel like early action used in the way that we use it is beneficial to the right kind of student and to this institution,” Broadus said.

— by eliza murphy

This week in Flat Hat history  
1928 New rules for College freshmen

The College made a new set of rules for freshmen, requiring them to wear green ties and green and gold caps at all times except Sundays and holidays. Freshmen were also made to attend all home sports games and were not allowed to talk with students of the opposite sex before 4:00 p.m.

1962 Yates Hall used for the first time

Yates Hall was used at full capacity for the first time, housing 255 freshmen men. Construction, which was finished in May, cost the college \$750,000.

1989 Rec Center opens to students

The student Rec Center opened for the first time. It replaced the Blow Gymnasium (now Blow Hall) as the College’s sporting and event facility.

2001 Students mourn Sept. 11 victims

The day after the Sept. 11 attacks, students held a candlelight vigil outside the Wren Building to mourn and honor the victims of the attacks.

— compiled by morgan figa, carolyn diprospero and maxim lott

Corrections

In the Sept. 8 issue of The Flat Hat, two photos on pages 7 and 9 were incorrectly attributed to Se Wong Chung. The correct name is Se Won Chung. In the same issue, Sen. Matthew Skibiak was incorrectly named as a sophomore. He is a junior.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

The Flat Hat




‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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WEEKEND WEATHER	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			
	High 81° Low 66°	High 81° Low 65°	High 87° Low 66°

Source: www.weather.com



**Tuesday, Sept. 5** — A bicycle was reported stolen near the Commons Dining Hall. The bike was worth an estimated \$60. **1**

— A female student told police that she was receiving harassing phone calls from an ex-boyfriend.

**Wednesday, Sept. 6** — A student reported that his sunglasses and watch were stolen from his locker at the Rec Center. The sunglasses were said to be worth \$130, and the watch \$350. **2**

**Thursday, Sept. 7** — Police found the symbol of a crest spray-painted on a composite con-

crete trash can near the Jamestown dorms. Two students have been arrested for spray-painting the same symbol on other parts of campus. The damage is estimated at \$400. **3**

**Friday, Sept. 8** — Police found four students drunk in the graduate student parking lot. One, Michael Sawyer, had reportedly damaged a student-owned car. Sawyer was taken into custody for being drunk in public and later agreed to pay restitution for damage to the car. The other three students were referred to the College for alcohol violations. **4**

**Saturday, Sept. 9** — A student, John Lang, was arrested at the intersection of Brooks and Compton for being drunk in public. He was taken to the regional jail. **5**

— A bike worth approximately \$1,000 was reported stolen outside of Monroe hall. **6**

— A bike worth an estimated \$450 was reported stolen outside of Unit D. **7**

— Larceny of a camera worth approximately \$300 was reported at Unit E. A lanyard and keys worth \$25 were also stolen. **7**

— A resident advisor in Dupont Hall reported receiving “annoying and harassing” calls to his dorm phone. **8**

**Sunday, Sept. 10** — Police received a noise complaint about loud music and yelling from Dupont Hall. Police found no noise upon arrival. **8**

**Monday, Sept. 11** — Two different students reported that their parking decals had been stolen. They were worth approximately \$240 each.

— compiled by maxim lott

STREET BEAT :

What do you think about plans to convert the College Delly into a Starbucks?



It’s a shame to be losing another nightlife spot.

◆ Neah Monteiro, senior



There are plenty of Starbucks already.

◆ Austin Powell, freshman



No one really goes to the College Delly anymore.

◆ Brian Zane, senior



It’s not a good thing. I’m pro-small business.

◆ Erik Fullwood, freshman

— photos and interviews by virginia newton



# ‘Sailing house’ listed for sale



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT  
*The sailing house is on sale for \$1.4 million.*

By ALEXANDRA COCHRANE  
THE FLAT HAT

A house formerly occupied by members of the College’s sailing team has been listed for sale, according to its owner Gregory Granger for \$1.4 million. The city’s tax assessor values the house at \$403,600.

Other College students currently occupy the house, located on 101 Chandler Court. The former occupants are leasing a different house from Granger.

Even though Granger had obtained three certificates of compliance (101, 101A, 101B) allowing for three residents per certificate, more than three students still were not allowed to reside in the house together.

“Eventually the matter was settled in court with the city prevailing. The College had absolutely no involvement with what happened to the students,” Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler said.

Granger said that behavioral issues had nothing to do with the sailing team’s relocation.

“I have a great relationship with the sailing team. I’ve never had any problems whatsoever with the conduct, behavior or maintenance when they were at the Chandler house,” he said.

Granger performed numerous structural repairs to the house before renting it to students from the College. He said that the previous owner had left it in disrepair and had numerous citations for not looking after the

house.

The rise in value of the house could include its listing on the National Historic Registry, its proximity to Duke of Gloucester St., an updated electrical system and an additional attached apartment. The 11-room house is located on a .23 acre corner lot and was built in 1925.

The house was purchased in July 2005 for \$450,000. If Granger gets his full asking price, the sale price would increase by nearly \$1 million in just over one year.

Granger declined an offer from a Virginia Beach man who offered to buy the house for \$1.1 million. Granger said he originally placed it on the market so that people could walk through and experience the house’s beauty and realize that students from the College hadn’t damaged it.

Granger also wants to showcase the Chandler house’s value because he wants to exchange it with the College for Delta Sigma Theta’s sorority house on 205 Richmond Road. Delta Sigma Theta’s house is assessed at \$319,800 by the city.

Granger would not comment on negotiations with the College, but he did say that he is a lifelong member of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and would like to donate the sorority house to the Church if the exchange with the College went through.

“I want to know that at some point, the Presbyterian church will own that property. That is the one key property left on that block. The entire church only owns nine parking spaces, so it would be good for the church to own the house and its parking spaces in the long run,” he said.

Granger was surprised at the sudden attention the house has garnered.

“It is interesting that so many people are so concerned about a house that was truly a blight on this community — that I have invested at least a third of a million dollars in,” he said.

Granger also spoke of the allure of off-campus housing and the difficulties students encounter in finding it.

“Students will always want to live where they have the greatest freedom and the nicest accommodations available to them. I think the actions from a few poor tenants and landlords in the past, who have occasionally been students, have caused neighborhoods to lump all students into the category of less than desirable neighbors,” Granger said.

The College sponsors a yearly workshop for students wishing to live off-campus so they can learn about leasing properties, city and county ordinances and services offered to renters.

## STARBUCKS

FROM PAGE 1

welcome,” Tsamouras added. “I think Starbucks is a very, very good company. I think they’ll be a good neighbor to the city and the surrounding neighborhood.”

Starbucks would not confirm any plans for the Delly.

“The lease hasn’t been executed yet,” Judy Knauer, a public relations representative for Starbucks, said. She would not comment further.

Three approvals are needed before the proposed conversion of the building can begin. First, the exterior changes to the building, including the sandblasting and paint scheme, must be approved by the architecture review board. The board review scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday was rescheduled for Sept. 26 due to “crossed wires” that resulted in a

missing signature on the paperwork, Tsamouras said. Next, the exterior signage must be approved at a second meeting of the architecture review board at a later date. Finally, a building permit must be applied for and received, a process which will not be considered at a public hearing. All of these requirements are expected to be met and the total process could take as little as two weeks, Williamsburg Planning Director Reed Nester said.

“Staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval,” the Williamsburg Architectural Review Board said in a form for the proposed changes.

The plan faces opposition from some College Delly employees, members of the student assembly and students on Facebook.com.

Student Assembly Sen. Zach Pilchen, a sophomore, introduced the Defense of Nightlife Act, which

proposes bringing SA resources together to fight the Starbucks.

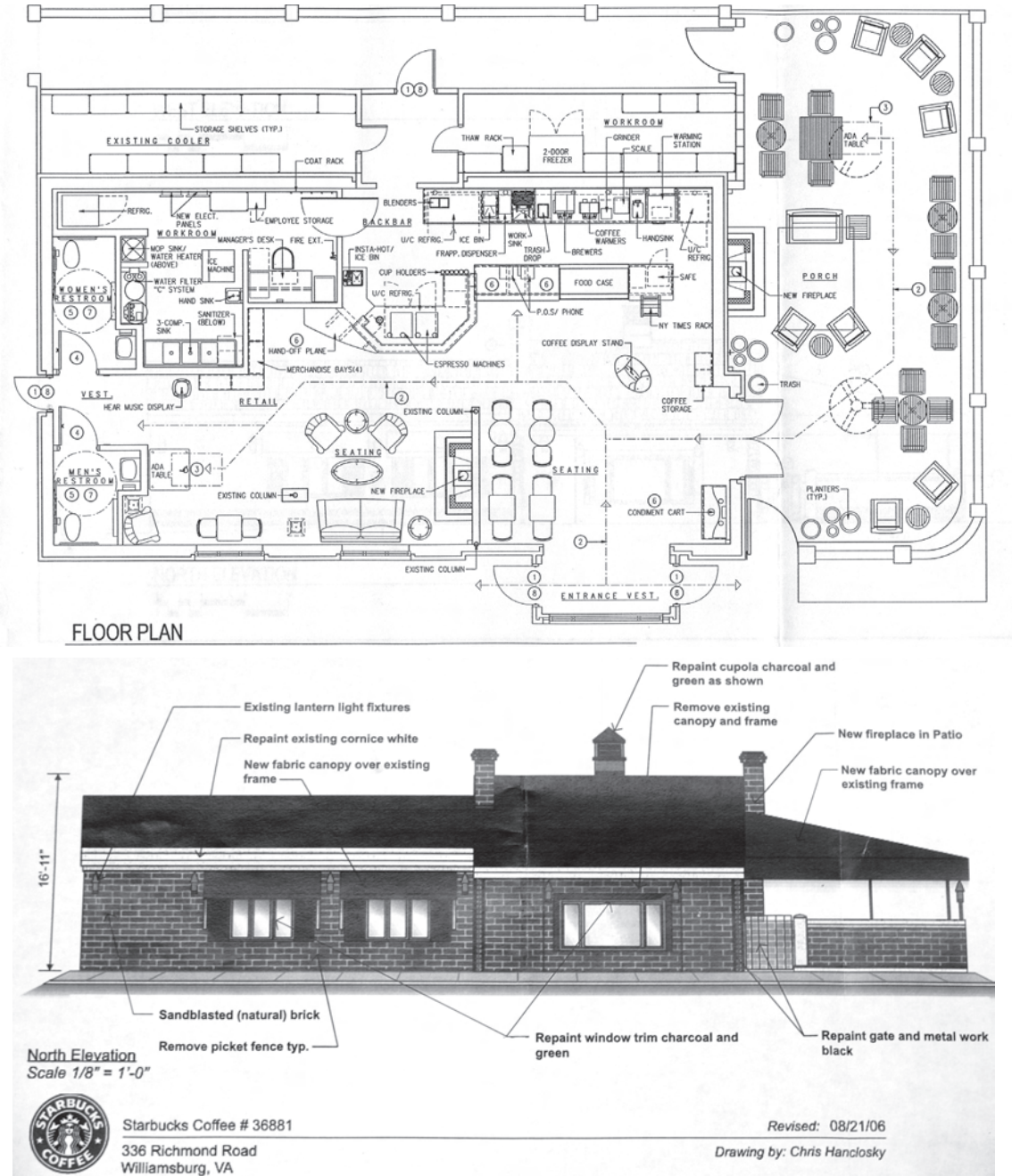
“I see this as a much larger trend in town-gown relations,” Pilchen said. “We’re losing the right to have fun in Williamsburg.”

Darleen Gilland, manager of the College Delly, announced her opposition to the planned Starbucks.

“The employees don’t want to see this go,” she said. “I don’t want to see it go; I love you guys,”

Those opposing the plan hope a strong protest will convince Starbucks and the College Delly to scrap the plans, but city officials say there is little they can do to block the plan from gaining approval at the architectural review board.

“From the community ordinance standpoint, there is really not an opportunity to protest,” Reed said. “Starbucks has the right to establish at this location under our zoning rules.”



COURTESY GRAPHIC • CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG  
*A floor plan, top of the new Starbucks that is slated to replace the College Delly at 336 Richmond includes indoor and patio seating. A second diagram of the new Starbucks, below, shows another view.*

# Powell encourages fundraising, BOV integration at first meeting

By ANDY ZAHN  
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Visitors held its first meeting of the 2006 to 2007 academic year yesterday in the BOV Conference Room in Blow Memorial Hall.

Rector Michael Powell led the meeting for the first time and offered his hope that his tenure would be marked by improved cooperation between the BOV and the College.

Powell had been scheduled to speak at the College’s Opening Convocation ceremony Sept. 1 before it was cancelled due to Tropical Depression Ernesto.

Powell said that the Higher Education Restructuring Act would make it crucial for the BOV to take an active leadership role in the future of the College.

“I really have a vision that this is a working board, not a ceremonial board,” Powell said. “We have new and important responsibilities under the restructuring act to the state and the College.”

BOV members will be issued College IDs today in order to become more integrated with the College and to enable them

to take advantage of more of its resources.

Powell also indicated that he wanted to bridge the gap between the BOV and the City of Williamsburg.

“Remember that this town is our community, too,” Powell said.

Powell announced that the BOV would start a diversity task force in order to mirror diversity advances made by the College.

He also stressed the need for the College to continue to improve its funding.

Both he and College President Gene Nichol pointed to increased funding as a way for the College to raise its profile and to improve student life, as well as faculty and undergraduate research opportunities.

“One day, this school probably needs \$1 billion,” Powell said.

In addition to challenges with funding, Nichol said the College will have to re-examine its athletic logo, which the NCAA recently labeled as offensive to American Indian groups because it depicts feathers.

“We are seeking clarification from the NCAA on what the reported sanctions might be,”

Nichol said. “We are consulting widely as to what our response should be.”

Provost Geoffrey Feiss presented statistics on enrollment and admissions to the Board.

He commented on Harvard University’s recent decision to drop its single choice early action program and said that it would be very unlikely that the College would follow suit.

“Rather than do away with early decision, what is probably more important is for us to work with students at [less competitive high schools] to have the opportunity to participate in early decision,” Feiss said.

Feiss called the College’s early decision program a “huge benefit to an institution.”

The BOV will meet again today to discuss university development and athletics.

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine appointed one new member to the College’s BOV and reappointed three others yesterday.

Charles Banks of Gloucester, Va. was appointed to his first four-year term. Thomas Capps of Richmond, Suzann W. Matthews of Fairfax and Sally Gore of Newark, De. were reappointed to the BOV.

## BUSINESSES

FROM PAGE 1

homage to the great town centers of early America, the architecture will represent a refined Georgian style.”

So far, the only confirmed merchant will be a seven-screen, first-run dine-in theater. DeWitt said that the developer, Roseland Property Group of Portsmouth, Va., hopes to make available 50,000 square feet of retail space and 250,000 square feet of office space. Calls to Roseland Properties were not returned.

The High Street site, which runs along Richmond Road, has already been cleared.

Construction is scheduled to begin today after a groundbreaking ceremony at 11:00 a.m. and the buildings are slated to be occupied next year.

Despite the proximity to the campus, the College’s Associate Vice President for Economic Development Jim Golden said he is not sure it will be convenient for some students.

“The walk [from campus] will still be a challenge to High Street,” Golden said. “Our goal is to get bus connections out to those areas. It’s not such a problem for upperclass students who might have a car, but we want first and second year students to be able to get out there, too.”

Williamsburg Planning Director Reed Nester said that the project idea began in 1992 when the City Council rejected plans for a proposed Wal-Mart on the site and began looking for another tenant. The Wal-Mart was instead built near Rochambeau Drive in York

County. After that, the city began purchasing plots of land adjacent to High Street, and this spring sold them as one block to the Roseland Property Group.

The city is also aiding another project in the Scotland Street and Braxton Court area, just behind the dellies.

The project hopes to revitalize the neighborhood with funding by the city and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grants.

It will include a least one new retail-oriented building and several renovated spaces.

It is not clear specifically what retail outlets might occupy the new space. DeWitt said that additional development could also occur on the site of the Tioga Motel and the Southern Inn, properties on Richmond Rd.

“They are for sale on the private market place,” DeWitt said. “The city can encourage development there, but ultimately it is the private owners who will decide what to do.”

Student Assembly Sen. Matt Beato, a sophomore, said he was happy to see Williamsburg making redevelopment progress, but he is concerned that the retail development the city is encouraging might not be aimed at students.

“I wish and hope that these developments do lead to a more pro-student environment,” he said. “What I have seen from the city has often been targeted against students. These new plans for commercial development, however, do provide for me the first glimmer of hope I’ve seen from the city.”

## 9/11

FROM PAGE 1

Assembly coordinated the luminaries that circled and crossed the Sunken Garden. Each of the 1,500 luminaries commemorated two people who died in the terrorist attacks.

“A lot of people put a lot of work into this,” SA President Ryan Scofield, a senior, said. “I want the campus to preserve the memory of the people who died — the innocent people who died — regardless of politics. It doesn’t matter if they’re from a red state or a blue state, if they were republican or democrat or green or libertarian or whatever. These people died wrongly.”

The vigil continued with remarks from Brown.

“On Sept. 10 and on Sept. 12, we discuss the events before and after 9/11 — the War on Terror, homeland security, the War in Iraq. Believe me, these issues are relevant and an integral part of our democracy’s discourse,” Brown said.

“But today, we hold our politics aside. Our race, our religion, the color of our skin, our ethnic background, our profession and any other of our society’s cleavages suddenly disappear. We are united today, as Americans and as members of the William and Mary community,” Brown added.

Brown then introduced leaders of the College’s re-

ligious community, who spoke about hope for peace and spiritual reassurance.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler then spoke about his experiences on that same day five years ago.

He described the heartache caused by the attacks as well as the comfort given by the College community in the days following the tragedy.

“For a while in some and perhaps forever in others, the events shifted the delicate balance that exists in each of us between fear and hope,” Sadler said.

He also encouraged people to celebrate the lives of the victims.

“The experience led to a reexamination of what we value,” Sadler added.

“It made family and friendships more precious. We became determined to give them more time and prominence in our lives.”

Brown and Reed next introduced members of the College faculty and student body who spoke about the seven alumni who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks.

College President Gene Nichol then addressed the audience before Reed made the evening’s closing remarks.

“Tonight, we take the first step to meet these challenges through remembrance,” Reed said. “Tonight, we focus not on how those 3,000 souls died but, rather, on how they lived.”

## SA

FROM PAGE 1

for all students, and Pilchen said that he wanted Residence Life to create a gender-integrated space.

The SA also confirmed several committee nominees. Senior Andrew Costello was confirmed as chairman of the Review Board, senior David Sievers was confirmed as Public Affairs liaison to Williamsburg, sophomore Andy Peters was confirmed as the second Public Affairs liaison to Williamsburg and sophomore Ross Grogg was confirmed as Public Affairs liaison to Richmond. Costello, Sievers and Peters were all confirmed by unanimous consent. After the motion to send Grogg’s confirmation to the public affairs committee was denied, he was confirmed 13-0 with two senators abstaining.

## AFFORDABILITY

FROM PAGE 1

director of Virginia 21, a group that lobbies the GA on behalf of students, said in a Sept. 8 press release.

“This failing grade emphasizes the need for legislatures to fulfill their promise to fully fund higher education,” she added.

Hix said that the commonwealth’s failing grade should not be taken too seriously.

He said that the costs of higher education are a major concern for the state, but he also pointed out that only 7 states made passing grades for affordability. Utah and California received a “C-,” the highest grades.



# Under the MICROSCOPE

## ◆ CORNY DEVELOPMENTS COULD CURE AMERICA’S OIL ADDICTION

By KATE PRENGAMAN  
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

It has been almost nine months since President George W. Bush announced during his State of the Union address that the United States was “addicted to oil.” However, it has been hard to see any sign of widespread attempts at rehab. But don’t get discouraged; just because green fuels haven’t taken over the mass market doesn’t mean there’s not potential out there.

The first and most widely-known green fuel is corn-based ethanol. This ethanol-gasoline blend accounted for almost 3 percent of U.S. automotive fuel sales in 2005. For perspective, that 3 percent amounts to 16 billion liters. The new fuel source has been substantially encouraged by a federal tax subsidy of \$2 billion annually. However, corn-based ethanol’s growth in popularity was closely followed by a growth in criticisms.

While burning the ethanol in an engine produces substantially less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline, the amount of energy spent to harvest the corn and refine the ethanol burns a sizeable amount of fossil fuels. A few new processing plants that produce ethanol by burning coal have drawn particular attention to this irony.

“When all the inputs and outputs were correctly factored in, we found that ethanol has a positive net energy of almost five megajoules per liter,” Daniel Kammen said in this month’s issue of Scientific American.

However, corn is not the only renewable fuel source with potential. Ethanol made from woody plants with a high cellulose content can be used in place of gasoline for a 90 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This ethanol is cleaner because the heat for the refinement process comes from burning lignin. When lignin, an organic material, is burnt, its carbon emission is equal to its carbon intake during growth. This is a vast improvement over the corn-based processes.

No list of green fuels would be complete without a discussion of biodiesel. Produced from a variety of vegetable oils, animal fats and even waste vegetable oil from fry-heavy restaurants like McDonalds, the biodegradable fuel can be used in traditional diesel engines and distributed by the net-

works that serve automotive fossil fuels. In case you still remember your introduction to organic chemistry, biodiesel is produced by a lipid-trans-esterification. The glycerols of the fatty acid react with alcohol when mixed at a high temperature to yield the petrol-diesel-like fuel, which burns with greatly reduced greenhouse emissions.

The use of agricultural products in diesel engines was predicted by the engine’s inventor, Rudolf Diesel, in 1912. “The diesel engine can be fed with vegetable oils and would help considerably in the development of agriculture of the countries which use it ... The use of vegetable oils for engine fuels may seem insignificant today, but such oils may become, in course of time, as important as petroleum and the coal tar products of the present time.” Although still expensive to mass produce, enthusiasts across the country are producing their own biodiesel from vegetable oil for as low as 70 cents per gallon, according to the do-it-yourself website, [www.biodieselwarehouse.com](http://www.biodieselwarehouse.com).

It is important to note that these new fuel technologies are not environmental miracles. Although they reduce our dependence on foreign oil in all cases and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the most part, increasing reliance on these fuels would demand more mono-crop agriculture with genetically modified species, land degradation and heavy use of fertilizers. Still, the technology is already beginning to show us that we have options for automotive energy beyond fossil fuels.



COURTESY PHOTO • WFBE.COM  
*The production of ethanol made from woody plants increased due to a \$2 billion government subsidy.*

# World Beat: Sri Lanka Peace negotiations denied

By SRAVYA YELESWARAPU  
THE FLAT HAT

Sri Lankan officials have denied claims that they set up peace negotiations with the rebel Tamil Tigers.

According to the Sept. 13 online edition of BBC News, Norwegian mediators announced in Brussels that the talks were to take place next month. Though the Sri Lankan government expressed an interest in negotiating, they said that they had not made any concrete plans.

“The government of Sri Lanka is highly disturbed with regard to the statement made by the Norwegian facilitator, as the government neither agreed for unconditional talks nor was consulted,” Sri

this year.

According to the Sept. 12 online edition of CNN, the Sri Lankan government killed over 185 rebels in a six-day conflict this week.

Despite the signing of a Norwegian-brokered “permanent” ceasefire in 2002, the fighting continues. Neither side has officially pulled out of the truce, but its calls for peace are still ignored, CNN said.

CNN also reported that the Sri Lankan army captured the Tamil Tiger’s frontline position at Muhamalai, in the northern region of the country. Despite the capture, rebels continued to fire artillery shells at government troops, killing at least 35 soldiers since last Thursday.

According to the Reuters Foundation, over 1 million landmines have been planted across Sri Lanka

a strong Sinhalese nationalist campaign and took measures to make Sinhalese the national language.

In 1978, minority rebels founded the Tamil Tigers. By the early 1980s, violence escalated between the rebels and government military, oftentimes leading to grave human rights violations.

According to Amnesty International, these violations include the use of child soldiers, attacking religious minorities and torture.

Non-government organization Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization is arguing that aid cannot reach Sri Lankan civilians due to the conflict, which completely militarized the nation.

Although the United States and United Nations condemn human rights violations and are in support

### SITUATION: SRI LANKA

*Sri Lankan officials announced Wednesday that they are not holding peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, also known as the Tamil Tigers. Norwegian diplomats have been mediating peace talks between the two groups, and announced Tuesday that they had established a date for talks next month between Sri Lanka and the rebel group. The announcement was quickly refuted by Sri Lanka’s government, who also criticized the Norwegian mediators for making the announcement without consulting them. Though government officials have expressed wishes to open talks without “preconditions,” no definite plans have been made. The Tamil Tigers are a rebel group who have been fighting for a “separate homeland” for the ethnic Tamil minority group since the 1970s. Since the beginning of the conflict, more than 60,000 lives have been lost, and more than 200,000 people have been displaced from their homes.*

COURTESY GRAPHIC • ZABOUT.COM

Lankan Defense spokesman Kehe-liya Rambukwella said.

The Tamil Tigers are a minority rebel group that has been fighting the Sri Lankan government for a “separate homeland” since the late 1970s, the BBC said.

The violence reached its peak last month when the government launched a ground offensive to reach a Maavilaru waterway that was blocked by the rebels.

More than 60,000 lives were lost over the course of the conflict and over 200,000 people have been displaced from their homeland just

since the beginning of the conflict.

Sri Lanka is home to several different ethnicities and cultures; however, the Sinhalese and the Tamils constitute the two main groups, 74 percent and 13 percent of the population respectively. Although Sri Lanka had a peaceful transition from British rule to independent government in 1949, the rise of Sinhalese nationalism in the 1950s brewed hostility in the nation. The conflict materialized when the first president of Sri Lanka, Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, was elected on

of the peace process, there doesn’t seem to be any international pressure placed on either the government or the rebels to quicken the process toward a peaceful agreement.

When India intervened in 1987, opposition to foreign presence quickly led it to withdraw; one month later, India’s Prime Minister was assassinated.

Thus far, Norway has been the only country to mediate the two groups.

Sri Lanka last held peace talks with the Tamil Tigers in 2003.

## HOUSE

FROM PAGE 1

he was denied the request.

“I can only speculate from comments made at the [council] meeting; there was a general concern about upkeep of rental property, especially since this house is located on a main street in Williamsburg,” Palfrey said. “The city is ultimately looking out for the best interest of its permanent residents.”

Palfrey also voiced concern that

this case may set a precedent for other homes in the area, allowing them to bypass this zoning ordinance. This concern was also cited in the Neighborhood City Watch memo that was sent to city residents prior to the meeting to brief them on the issue.

One of the memo’s points reads: “A precedent will be set where other larger homes in residential areas can be targeted for conversion to multiple rentals.”

The memo listed five other points for meeting attendees to consider: the house will have five residents and a

new entrance for parking will be made off North Henry St., the house is located in an area where property upkeep is an issue, the objective of the owner is to overcome present rental occupancy limits and the students will eventually graduate.

“I think the memo basically told them why they should come to the meeting to protest against us,” Palfrey said. “They seemed to give the same old rhetoric about students living off campus, citing the activities, loud noises and outlook of the house that might go with student housing.”

Junior Brett Phillips, chair of the Student Assembly’s Public Affairs Committee, attended the meeting with Palfrey to represent the interests of student housing in general.

“The SA is concerned with the zoning of Palfrey’s house as it pertains to the student owner and to students in general who are discriminated against by the City of Williamsburg’s zoning laws,” Phillips said. “The SA has an interest in protecting student interests on and off campus, and we are concerned that the ‘three-person rule’ acts as a surrogate law whose function is alternatively aimed at marginalizing students in the Williamsburg neighborhoods.”

According to Rhodes, the discussion from the Sept. 5 meeting revealed that Palfrey ran into trouble last year for having eight people living in his house and was required to come into compliance with the law.

Phillips believes part of the decision may be biased against students.

“Every board has staff that looks at the details of particular cases under a microscope, and when the board asked their staff what their opinion was, the staff responded, ‘if there is anywhere in the city to allow an exemption, it should be on this property,’” he said. “It astounds me that all five board members voted in opposition and basically disregarded the findings of a more knowledgeable staff report. There was undoubtedly student bias in this decision.”

The attempt was the last opportunity to come to any agreement with Williamsburg on this issue.

“I must comply with the rules and regulations of the city; this appeal was the last avenue open to reach a final agreement with the city, and their verdict is final,” Palfrey said.

# Charles Center Showcase of Summer Research

## Saturday, September 16, 2006

What did *you* do on your summer vacation? Scholarship winners from across the College want to tell you what they did! This summer, over 100 students used scholarships from the Charles Center to do extraordinary things. Come see the results of their work!

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# LEAP

## Leadership Program

# Leadership Styles

Wednesday,  
September 20

UC - James Room

4:15 - 5:30 PM

Questions - Please Contact Eric Eickhoff - [eeick@wm.edu](mailto:eeick@wm.edu)



# OPINIONS

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Registration rejection

There are 134 local registrars in Virginia, and each one has the power to apply voter registration rules any way he or she desires. That means there are 134 standards for the type of addresses that get questioned, 134 sets of questions asked to determine domicile and 134 rules for interpreting those answers. From Charlottesville, where anyone with a dorm address is allowed to register, to Fredericksburg, where dorm addresses are automatically rejected, to our own City of Williamsburg, where repeated battles have been fought over what exactly it takes to register in this town, local voting rules in Virginia make hanging chads and butterfly ballots look like a model of clarity.

Last week’s Flat Hat reported on proposed changes to the rules that determine who can register to vote in local elections. Those in favor of the new policy say that it will bring consistency to a system lacking uniform rules. In reality, the proposed rules do little more than give legal basis to the inconsistent treatment that students already face from local registrars.

The new rules, proposed by the Virginia State Board of Elections, set out what type of addresses can be singled out for increased scrutiny and a list of questions that can be asked if a resident’s address raises a flag. To register in Williamsburg, a would-be voter must provide a current local address and show intent to remain in the city indefinitely. Since no registrar can look into students’ heads to determine whether they intend to stay after graduation, the new rules provide a list of questions, such as where the applicant is a registered driver, that probe into potential voters’ future plans. But a questionnaire designed by committee and administered by bureaucrats to predict where college students will be in four years will have little success at its intended purpose and serves only as an objective fig leaf, covering the ultimately subjective decisions of local registrars.

The new rules attempt to provide consistency in all the wrong places, while ignoring what’s really broken with the current system. The problem has never been what types of addresses are flagged or what questions are asked to determine domicile, but the inconsistent way registrars apply those rules across the state. Without clear rules, students are more likely to keep their registration at their parent’s home and are discouraged from registering at all. Students are then forced to fill out cumbersome absentee ballot forms, depressing turnout among already under-represented young voters. They are shut out from voting on issues that affect them everyday, from the three people per house rule to the future of development in Williamsburg.

College President Gene Nichol has been an outspoken critic of Virginia’s voter registration rules since he came to the College two years ago. The former constitutional law professor-turned-College-president stands atop years of distinguished legal experience — experience he isn’t afraid to use in his criticism of the current policies. “The real problem is the grotesque disparity of how students are treated in Williamsburg compared to the way they are treated in the rest of the state. That is a violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution,” Nichol has said. Nichol’s consistent, vocal support of student voting rights has been one of the unexpected highlights of his time here, and it has earned him the respect of students used to administrators loathe to rock the City of Williamsburg’s boat.

Securing consistent voting standards in Williamsburg has been a goal of students for years, and the proposed rules don’t take us much closer. Until new laws are passed in Richmond, students will have to continue to fight an uphill battle to vote in Williamsburg. For now, anyone who considers himself a permanent resident of Williamsburg should visit Reigstrar David Andrews in the City of Williamsburg Voter Registrar’s Office at 412 North Boundary Street before Oct. 10, and sign up to vote in this year’s election.

#### Editorial Board:

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The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to fhopns@wm.edu. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets weekly to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by the Editor or a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

## Healing Healthcare

Perhaps the greatest domestic crisis facing the United States is that which currently confronts American healthcare. There are many facets to the healthcare issue, including the government’s lax preparations to confront biological or chemical attacks, the threat posed by the H5N1 Avian Flu virus and even the growing number of patients infected with “superbugs,” immune to commonly-used antibiotics. Nevertheless, the greatest impetus driving the healthcare crisis is derived from the 40 million Americans currently without health insurance.

Though many proposals are being considered in Washington, partisan clashes have made nearly all reform efforts impossible. Therefore, several states have begun to take it upon themselves to offer health insurance using a variety of different reform measures.

Massachusetts, for example, has mandated that all citizens have health insurance in one form or another. Employers may provide an insurance plan to their employees or pay money to the state government, which will subsidize employee healthcare. However, as a mere 10 percent of the population of Massachusetts is uninsured, compared to roughly 16 percent nationwide, implementing such a plan on the federal level could have serious repercussions.

On the other hand, there are some actions that could be taken by the federal government to ease the healthcare burden. For instance, roughly 25 percent of uninsured Americans have incomes that are three times the poverty level. Many of the 13 million young, uninsured Americans fall into this category: those who can afford healthcare, but because they are healthy, see little need to invest in health insurance. If the government were to mandate that these young Americans pay

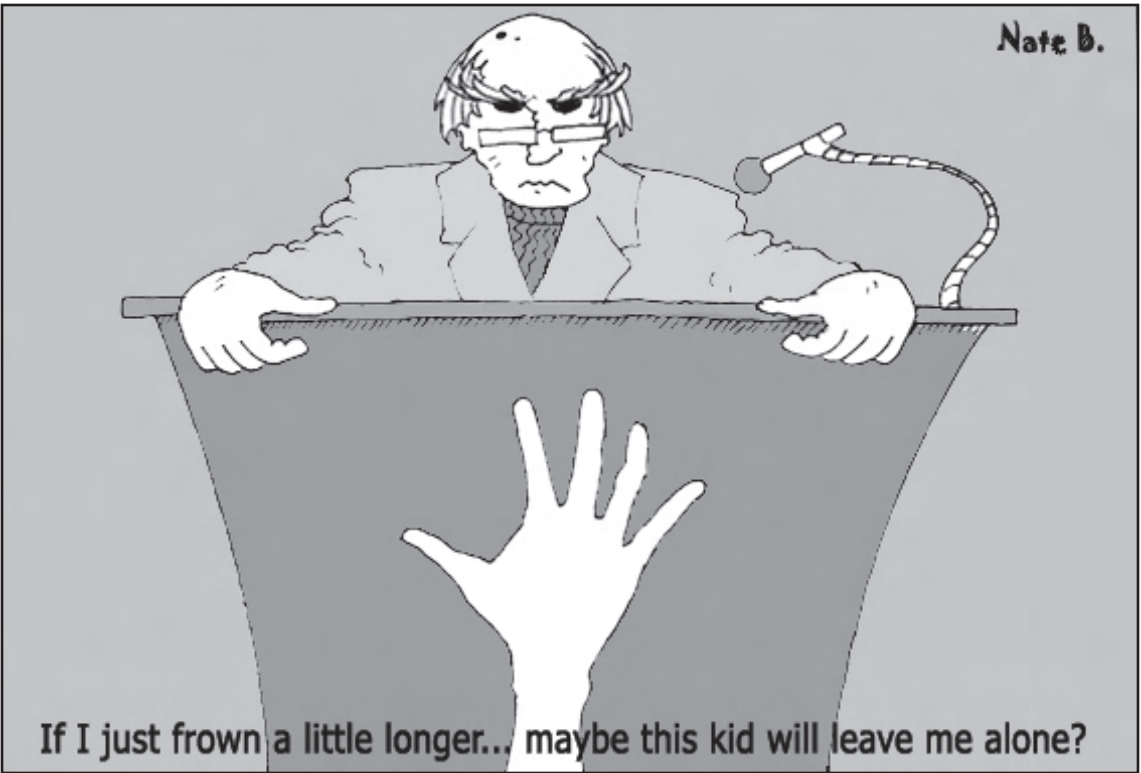
into insurance plans, whether via their employer or on an individual basis, the augmented pool of resources would mitigate the costs confronting older Americans.

On the national level, debate has been polarized, with some from the far-left pushing for a single-payer system like the one in Canada, and those on the right favoring little or no reform. The weaknesses of the single-payer system are apparent, with skyrocketing taxes and costs for businesses, long waiting lists for medical procedures, a decrease in the quality of care and relatively little or no decrease in the overall cost of healthcare. Likewise, minor reforms, such as the Bush administration’s proposed tax incentives and savings accounts, do little to alleviate the growing number of uninsured Americans.

I believe that American healthcare can and should be reformed in a way that it reflects an awareness of the problems with both private and government-provided healthcare. Rather than mimic European systems with well-known problems, the United States must use innovative strategies to avoid the rationing of medical services while providing universal healthcare. This daunting task must involve both the private and public sector in such a way as to preserve free market forces while ensuring that all Americans receive benefits. Starting with steps such as requiring young Americans who can afford healthcare to purchase insurance may begin a reform movement and target attention to this vital issue.

If federal legislators continue to bicker and postpone needed reform, a healthcare meltdown may ensue. While debate in the upcoming Congressional elections will focus on the war in Iraq and American foreign policy, one should take note that Rome fell from within and the same may be true of our Republic.

Joshua Powers is a senior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



## The A-word

“Awkward.” Before I came to the College, I took no issue with this word. After three years, however, this seemingly innocent arrangement of seven letters has become anathema to me because of its

omnipresence. It’s gotten to the point where I now avoid using the word and cringe when I hear it in its various incarnations (“socially awkward,” an “awkward moment,” an “awkward situation”). I cherished summer vacation in part because of my break from the a-word. But as soon as I returned to campus, it was waiting for me. I can’t escape it. It lurks around every turn in a College conversation. Keep your ears open; I bet you’ll hear the word “awkward” 10 times or more today alone.

I am a patient person. I don’t mind waiting in lines nor do I find telemarketing calls especially loathsome. I even enjoy chatting with Jehovah’s Witnesses on my doorstep and have been known to offer them refreshments. So why does a two syllable word get under my skin? It bothers me because I am concerned for the campus’s well being. The College is dangerously addicted to the a-word, and it’s time for an intervention.

Why is “awkward” used so frequently? Some would contend that it appears so often in the speech of students because we at the College are just that, awkward. Sure, there are other words that could be used to describe our behavior: insecure, unsure, self-conscious, uncomfortable, embarrassed. Yet none fits so well as awkward, perhaps because the word is inherently cumbersome.

But why are we so awkward? Some say we do or say embarrassing things because we lack social skills. We’re so preoccupied with the impressions of others that we try too hard to act casual and inevitably end up in a tactless tailspin. Our ignorance in the ways of social graces is our undoing, they say, no matter how intelligent we may be. The

self-perpetuating nature of awkwardness is also no help. Once you do one awkward thing, you find yourself apologizing for your awkwardness and, in doing so, just manage to make things more, well, awkward.

It’s no secret that we’re an awkward bunch, and yet I have never heard anyone propose a means of resolving the problem. I think this is because we have come to secretly enjoy being awkward. We love making self pitying displays to our friends about how uncool we are and competing with one another over whose experience is more awkward, or who can claim to be the most awkward. Any occasion to label a situation as “awkward” is eagerly seized, as the a-word increasingly becomes our common crutch. Herein lies the problem, but also the solution.

The nature of a word like awkward implies an antithesis. In order for something to be “awkward,” there must simultaneously exist an opposing state of normalcy: a situation that is “not awkward.” In this respect, awkward is like “hungry” or “sick.” You must know what it means to be full if you say you are hungry; you must know what it means to be healthy if you say you are sick. Similarly, you must know normalcy if you know a situation is, not normal, but awkward. At the College, we have become so obsessed with the label “awkward” that it has lost its meaning. We have so greatly lowered the qualifications for awkwardness that almost nothing truly awkward ever happens at the College anymore. Simply put, everything is rapidly becoming awkward, which means that soon nothing will be.

So, in a way, I guess we’re destroying awkwardness by promulgating it. But I don’t think anyone realizes that. In fact, many would probably point to this article and laugh at how delightfully awkward it is for there to be a column on the word “awkward” in their college newspaper. Maybe they’re right ... but, geez, you’d think that just once they could use a different word.

John Bell is a senior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

## Letters to the Editor

### The Arab-Israeli conflict

#### To the Editor:

In Joshua Powers’ Sept. 1 column, “Unpopular Justice,” he wrote in defense of the actions taken by Israel in its struggle against Hezbollah.

Although the columnist presented a strong defense of the idea that “unpopular actions are not always unjust ones,” I believe his article reflects and reinforces a misunderstanding of the Arab-Israeli issue. The columnist states, “[this] war began when Hezbollah fighters crossed the border into Israel, killing three soldiers and capturing another two.”

In fact recent events belong to a greater struggle, which began in the 19th century. As the ideological sickness of nationalism and its offshoot anti-Semitism took hold in Europe, Jews from that continent began emigrating to Palestine, where for centuries Oriental Jews and Christians had lived in peace with the Arab Muslim majority. These Jews brought with them their own variety of nationalism, Zionism, whose cause was endorsed and ultimately

fulfilled by the Western powers at the expense of regional and international stability.

The familiar comparison invoked by the columnist, which applauds Israel for abiding by conventions of international warfare while condemning its enemies for their methods of violence, fails to recognize the most basic fact of the matter: these terrorists reject the existing world order, which is based upon the Western idea of the nation-state and upheld by the Western powers. They blame this world order for their plight.

Modern history abounds with examples of dispossessed peoples who hide their nihilism behind some high ideal. In this respect terrorists are no different from Nazis, Bolsheviks, or the breadless mobs of 1789 Paris. We cannot understand the Arab-Israeli conflict without consulting this history. To treat each episode of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a new and distinct conflict is to miss the forest for the trees.

— Clint Condra, ’07





# Marimba soloist Dog walker Urban cowgirl\*

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Tyler Trumbo talks about the Penn Ride for Cancer and his penchant for ‘mockapella.’ See **THAT GUY**, page 9.

## WCWM hopping up radio dial

By **CHELSEA RUDMAN**  
THE FLAT HAT

Walking into the main room of the WCWM station is like walking into a beautiful, unrestored Victorian mansion — you get the sense of a grandeur that’s been outpaced by time. Tens of thousands of vinyl LP records line the walls, the product of 50 years of accumulation. The collection is so impressive that the Wu-Tang Clan offered to buy the station’s LPs in 2000. Plastic USPS boxes, packed to the brim with duplicate and other unwanted CDs, dot the floor and tables near the door. Posters and stickers featuring obscure bands and record labels blanket the walls.

WCWM is in a hallway so long that a shout at one end echoes — and both walls are lined with floor-to-ceiling bookcases of CDs. After a succession of doors to offices and the transmission room itself, at the very end of the hallway is a door labeled “Production Room” with a cheeky addendum warning users to “Keep This Clean or Your Ass is Grass!”

Like the records, the room is no longer used. Back in its heyday, when the station boasted over 100 DJs, it was used to record PSAs and other soundbites.

However, the station now has some 30 DJs with one or two dozen more in preliminary training, and the “production room” is producing naught but a film of dust.

But all that is changing.

Just like the station, which had been losing listeners and DJs until as recently as three years ago, the slumbering Production Room is soon to reawaken if junior Station Manager Adam Burks has his way. He imagines converting the room to a recording studio to rent out to performing groups. The station itself could use the room to edit material recorded live. A remote recording team, another of Burke’s dreams, might tape live acts — shows at the Meridian Coffeehouse, for example — and return to the studio to fine-tune and broadcast their performances. Like putting some new furniture in that Victorian mansion, if you will.

Though Burks hasn’t yet crunched the numbers, a boost in fundraising efforts may make his plans financially viable. The station rents DJ services for fraternity parties and hosts a concert series in partnership with the University Center Activities Board. This year’s inaugural WCWM concert featured Middle



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

**Junior Brett Roth [LEFT] looks on as senior John Bell broadcasts his Wednesday night show “Alphabet Soup” on WCWM 90.9 FM.**

Distance Runner and The Offering, who played last Saturday.

In addition to these current money-makers, Burks is seeking corporate sponsorship and additional on-air advertising. As the station has continued to “crawl up the dial,” as its website puts it, from 89.1 FM to 90.7 FM to 90.9 FM, so too will its scope and prestige, Burks hopes.

Senior Historian and Alumni Director Anne Gessler agreed that the station looks to be on an upswing. “The past couple years have been really beneficial,” she

said. “There’s been rising interest since three years ago.” More DJs spin for the station, and those DJs are staying longer.

But, of course, WCWM wouldn’t mind a few more. Since the station got its start in 1956, when a handful of radio enthusiasts broadcasted their AM station through the campus plumbing, student interest in the station has waxed and waned, ranging from fewer than 10 DJs to over 130. Burks and Gessler hope to continue to raise on-campus awareness of the station through events such as monthly CD give-

aways, the concert series and other media outlets such as the once-per-semester Submission magazine and alumni publication WCWM Pinups.

“We want to make our presence known ... we’re part of the community and the campus,” Gessler said.

No matter the number of DJs picking the tunes, the station’s mission of promoting unrecognized talent in the musical world has chugged on.

**See WCWM + page 9**

## For Muscarelle exhibit, a clash of media and communities

By **CHARLOTTE SABALIS**  
THE FLAT HAT

Beginning yesterday and running through Sunday, the Friends of the Muscarelle Museum of Art are sponsoring their second biennial “Art in Bloom” exhibit at the Muscarelle.

The Muscarelle hosts a variety of different exhibits every year. What makes the “Art in Bloom” exhibit unusual is that it doesn’t feature paintings or sculptures, but, rather, floral arrangements inspired by the works currently being shown at the Muscarelle. Marge Giesecking, the publicity coordinator for the event, said that the “Art in Bloom” exhibit will draw from three Russian exhibits currently being displayed as well as pieces from the museum’s permanent collection.

The exhibit will include the work of 23 arrangers, including florists, garden club members, gardeners from the Williamsburg area and art students.

“The arrangers will take works of art on display as their inspiration,” Muscarelle Director of Development Sally Wolfe said. “Unusually, we currently have three Russian exhibits simultaneously. All will be on display, and in addition, for four days, people will be able to see flower arrangements inspired by these works.”

The three Russian displays include “The Tsar’s Cabinet,” a private collection of imperial Russian decorative arts on loan from an individual in Florida; “Tradition in Translation,” a display of Russian

icons from the Romanov era on loan from the Hillwood Museum in Washington, D.C. and “Russian Realist Paintings by Vyacheslav Zabelin,” from the John Wurdeman Collection.

Giesecking said that the Muscarelle hosted the first “Art in Bloom” in 2004, but she said that many improvements have been made for this year’s exhibit. “Each time it improves,” she said. “Each time we do something for the first time we

can enhance it and make it better for the next time.”

Giesecking said that she was most excited to see what the arrangers had in store, since they won’t know which piece they will be designing from until the first day of the event.

“It’s amazing. They’re so creative because their arrangements match the work of art so well — not just in color scheme, but you might

**See MUSCARELLE + page 8**



ANDREW SCHAMADEL • THE FLAT HAT

**English Professor Nancy Schoenberger’s book, “Hollywood Kryptonite,” was recently adapted into the mainstream movie “Hollywoodland.” The movie stars Ben Affleck, Adrian Brody and Diane Lane.**

## ‘Hollywood Kryptonite’ begets ‘Hollywoodland’

By **ALEX ELY & CHARLOTTE HANCOCK**  
THE FLAT HAT

“Hollywood Kryptonite,” a book co-written by Nancy Schoenberger of the College’s English department, has gained much attention for its adaptation as the second-highest grossing film in theaters today, “Hollywoodland.” The book, first published in 1996, is an examination of the mysterious events surrounding the death of George Reeves, the actor who portrayed Superman in the 1950s television series “The Adventures of Superman.”

Reeves was shot and killed on June 16, 1959, in Los Angeles. His death was labeled a suicide by investigators. However, Schoenberger and her husband, Sam Kashner, have researched the peculiar

details of Reeves’ death, such as the way the autopsy was conducted and the lack of fingerprints on the gun. In addition, they say Reeves had been involved in an affair with Toni Mannix, wife of film studio executive Eddie Mannix, and they conclude that Mannix’s documented Mafia ties were called upon to kill Reeves.

Research for the book began while Schoenberger was a visiting professor at the College, and was sparked by her and Kashner’s shared interest in American culture of the 1950s. “My husband’s beat is old Hollywood. He covers a lot of old Hollywood subjects for Vanity Fair,” Schoenberger said. “We did a little preliminary research and found that

**See KRYPTONITE + page 8**



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

**The Muscarelle will host a unique exhibit this weekend that features floral arrangements based.**

## Football atmosphere in need of Tribe Pride, splash of color

### CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

Ah, football season: the crisp fall air, the excitement of competition, the thrill of a touchdown, the roar of the crowd ... Okay, fans here are more likely to mumble than roar, but the other stuff is still great. The Tribe is hosting its first home football game of the season on Saturday night — under our very own, very new lights. The use of the lights may actually be more exciting than the game itself, but either way, I think the entire student body should be getting pretty stoked.

We’re playing the University of Maine Black Bears. Judging from Maine’s total population (approximately 79 people) and the wild-beast-to-human ratio of that fine chunk of the North (13-to-1), I wouldn’t be surprised if they had actual bears playing for them. But that shouldn’t scare us.

I know the Tribe football team may not be the biggest or the best-funded. We don’t have the fanciest stadium (we’re thrilled to have

lights, remember?). We are, however, the Tribe — the NCAA can put that in its pipe and smoke it. Tribe means we stick it out, we stick together and we scream for our team.

Maybe my vision of what football games should be is a little skewed. I’m from Georgia — don’t judge me — and down where I live, anything from marriage to business deals to kneecaps can be broken over a college football rivalry. Kids get excused absences from school to attend away games. People show up three days in advance for some games and hole up in their RVs, big screen TVs plopped on the grass in front of them. Most shockingly, people actually wear entire DayGlo orange outfits to show their support for a particular Alabama-based team. No one should ever wear that much orange.

Hideos outfits, though, are a way of showing pride in your team. You sacrifice your own dignity in support of something

bigger than yourself — the 300-pound lineman who will eat you if you don’t.

In the past, I have been a little disappointed in fan involvement at Tribe football games. With the exception of JMU games, where everyone wore their so-much-more-flattering-than-orange green and gold T-shirts, color-coded fan-dom is depressingly scarce. I know it’s hard to dress outside of your normal color comfort zone. I’m an English major — my closet is predominantly black. But if I can rustle up something a little more Tribe Pride-y than shades of gray and taupe, so can you.

While we’re at it, let’s put a little color in our cheers as well. The cheerleaders do their best, but most of them are very tiny girls. No matter how loud they are, they cannot make up for a whole stadium full of silence. Too many times, I’ve overheard people debating whether they should stay for an entire game

or go to Swem halfway through. If I can hear you discussing things, the crowd is not yelling enough. If I can hear you discussing studying, the crowd should be yelling at you.

Football games are a time to let it all out. Have some rage left over from that fight you had with your (former) best friend? Let it out on the opposing team. Stressed out over your orgo exam? A big old cheer could fix you right up.

It doesn’t even matter if you actually know any cheers. Heck, you don’t even have to know anything about football. Sometimes I’m not even sure which team is which, who has the ball or what the score is, but I don’t let that stop me. I yell like it’s my job, and I am loud.

I am also all alone. If you went to any football games last year and you heard one

**See PRIDE + page 9**



VarietyCalendar

Highlights of the week  
— compiled by stephen knapp

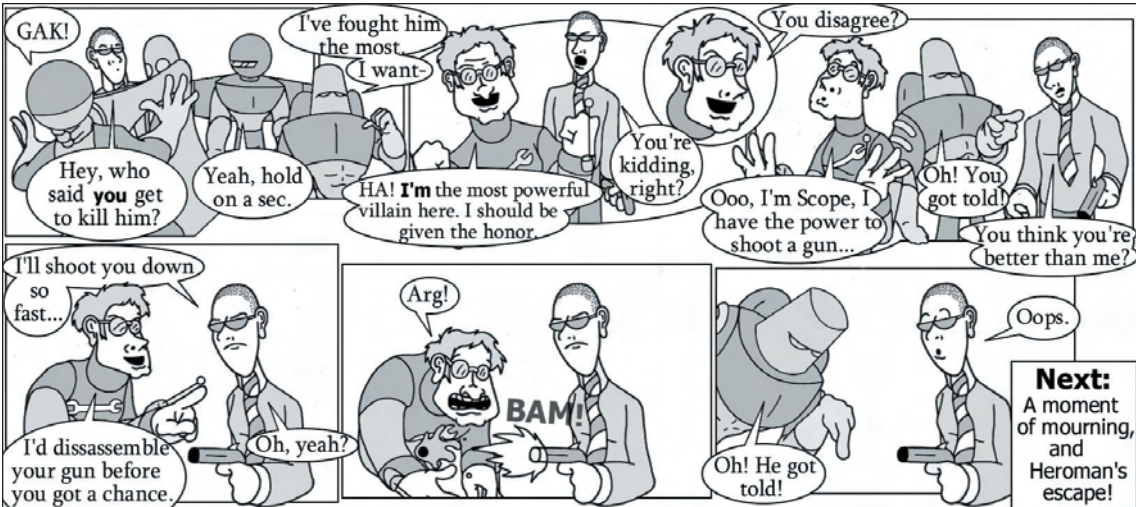
On-Campus Events

♦ Come to the UC Terrace tonight at 5 p.m. where **Exit Clov** will perform in UCAB’s Fridays @ 5 concert series. Delta Sigma Theta will hold its **Fall Fashion Show** tonight at 7 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth. Tomorrow, UCAB will host the **Foam Dance Party** in the Sunken Garden beginning at 10 p.m.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, e-mail fhvrtv@wm.edu before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Area Events

♦ Tonight at 9 p.m., **Cowboy Mouth** will play with an unannounced guest at the NorVa in Norfolk. Tickets are \$10 online and at the door. **Moonshine Still** will play at the Canal Club in Richmond tonight at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and are available online for \$8 at Thecanalclub.com. In Virginia Beach, **The Nighthawks** will play at the Jewish Mother beginning at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door and are available online at Thejewishmother.com for \$12. **Night Kills the Day**, with special guests, will play at the NorVa tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door and at Ticketmaster.com. Tomorrow at the Canal Club, **Melissa Ferrick** will perform with **Dayna Kurtz**. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$14 at the door and are available online for \$12. **Jack’s Mannequin** with **Copeland** and guests will play tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the NorVa for \$17.



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner

Horoscopes

**Virgo:** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You will question your decision to major in history this week when you are told that Darkwing Duck was the leading cause of the fall of the Soviet Union.

**Libra:** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



While your shoulder, neck or back may not hurt right now, it never hurts to have a couple of bottles of oxycodone terephthalate laying around.

**Scorpio:** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Justin Timberlake’s statement about the need to kick himself in the balls will lead you on a worldwide hunt to find one person who wouldn’t kick him in the balls.

**Sagittarius:** Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



In an attempt to catch a squirrel, you will leave a trail of acorns leading up to your door only to find a massive squirrel orgy in your room.

**Capricorn:** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



After getting hyped up before the home football game against Maine, you will be befuddled when three giant black bears get off the team bus.

**Aquarius:** Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Tired of your professors telling you to “think outside the box” in your papers, you will focus your next paper on the deep history and symbolism of the rectangle.

**Pisces:** Feb. 19 - March 20



It may seem unnecessary now, but wearing a cup at all times is a good precaution to take. Also, your friends will start throwing softballs at you this week.

**Aries:** March 21 - April 19



You come to a ridiculous realization this week that the word ridiculous is used a ridiculous amount of times by a ridiculous amount of people.

**Taurus:** April 20 - May 20



You are learning more about yourself each day, and you’ve come to take the time to stop and smell the roses. You’ll soon learn you’re fatally allergic to roses.

**Gemini:** May 21 - June 21



If you get caught stealing Swedish Fish from Wawa this week, it wouldn’t hurt to explain to the cops the over infestation of the “red sugar fish” in Sweden.

**Cancer:** June 22 - July 22



The stars are never wrong. Okay, so maybe Alpha Centauri was a little drunk, but he was only hinting at the idea of growing that disgusting mullet.

**Leo:** July 23 - Aug. 22



We stars would like to accept your thanks, praises and, possibly, kisses ahead of time for our unabounding wisdom. No autographs, please.

..... compiled by stephen knapp .....

MUSCARELLE

FROM PAGE 7

see that a painting has a distinct bend to the right, and the flowers will all be arranged to the right. I can’t wait to see how they come out.”

In addition to the flower arrangements, there will be several events to attend. Last night was the Champagne Preview, the first chance people had to see what the arrangers’ work. A painting by Polly Nunn, a well-known artist residing in Williamsburg, was also auctioned off.

There are more events still to come in the next couple of days. Clark Taggart, the nationally and internationally recognized floral designer from Williamsburg, will give a flower-arranging demonstration tomorrow from 2 to 3 p.m. According to Wolfe, the arrangement he is planning will be inspired by different eras of Russian history.

Then, from 4 to 5 p.m., Russian art expert Wurdeman will give a lecture entitled “The Beginning of Flower Gardening and the History of Flowers in Art.” Wurdeman became interested in Russian art after his son, artist John Henry Wurdeman, attended the Surikov Institute of Art in Moscow, becoming the first American to graduate from there.

“My favorite part of this exhibit has been watching



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

*The Muscarelle Museum’s current exhibit features floral arrangements inspired by works of art.*

all of this come together,” Wolfe said. “Everyone is excited and enthusiastic — it’s been a lot of fun seeing this come together over the last four or five months.”

For those who would like guidance, docent tours will be conducted today and Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m., and tomorrow from 1 to 2 p.m. Entrance to the exhibit is free for students with their IDs, but the lectures each have a \$10 entry fee.

Left Brain/Right Brain

Rebus Puzzles

POWER  
POWER  
POWER  
POWER<-----

cof fee

30AMI

cluck cluck  
quack quack

FOOT

Y  
O  
U  
N  
D  
E  
R

PANTS  
PANTS

book going

S S S S  
B B B B  
A A A A  
R R R R  
G G G G

E A P  
S P  
U A L

i i i i  
oo oo

D A N C E  
A N C  
E C N A D

Directions: A rebus is a picture representation of a name, word or phrase. Each rebus puzzle above portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess the expression that each brainteaser represents?

Source: niehs.nih.gov

Answers: Lowest power; Coffee break; Foot; Foot; Down yonder; A part of pants; Going by the book; Tip for grabs; Round of applause; Circles under the eyes; Square dance

Sudoku

	8	1	6					9
4		7		9		6	8	
6	9					2		
		2	9		7		4	
	1	9				7	6	
	4		3		1	9		
		8					1	4
		4		2		3		7
3					9	8	2	

Last Week’s Solution

3	4	9	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	6	2	9	8	4	1	5	3
1	8	5	3	2	7	4	9	6
6	5	7	2	4	8	3	1	9
4	2	1	6	3	9	5	8	7
8	9	3	7	5	1	6	4	2
5	7	6	1	9	2	8	3	4
2	1	8	4	7	3	9	6	5
9	3	4	8	6	5	7	2	1

Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each three-by-three block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.

Source: crazydad.com

KRYPTONITE

FROM PAGE 7

although Reeves’ death was officially a suicide, there were a lot of questions about the case. We both knew the show, and we thought it would be fun to write a true crime book.”

According to Schoenberger, the first stop on their search was the Super Museum in Metropolis, Ill., where Jim Hambrick, the owner and curator of the museum, had a copy of Reeves’ autopsy report.

“An L.A. police officer never believed that the verdict should have been suicide, so he kept the autopsy report, and years after he retired, he sent the report to the owner and curator of the Superman museum,” Schoenberger said. “So ... we walked away with a copy of that report and that got us started.”

Schoenberger concluded from the evidence that the autopsy had been severely mishandled, and that glaring errors had been made. “With a gunshot wound, you check to see if there is powder on the skin, and that can tell you whether the gun was self-inflicted, if it was held up to his head or if it was shot from across the room in which case it couldn’t be suicide,” Schoenberger said. She added that the body was taken to a funeral home and washed before the autopsy, and the bullet hole in Reeves’ head was sewn up, so there was no way to tell the depth of the wound. As it turned out, the funeral home was owned by Eddie Mannix.

The film only considers some of this evidence, according to Schoenberger, leaving the cause of death up to the viewer. The film is not a direct adaptation of the book, although Focus Features did purchase the rights from the authors. Schoenberger and her husband are given program consultant credit.

“It’s very important that we get this right,” Schoenberger said. “We aren’t credited for the screenplay — we didn’t write it. Our only bragging rights are that they bought the rights to the book.” The film does include findings from Schoenberger and Kashner’s book, including the possibility that Eddie Mannix may have murdered his first wife.

Ben Affleck stars as Reeves, while Diane Lane plays the role of Toni Mannix. Adrien Brody portrays the detective in charge of investigating the murder. Brody’s character, although loosely based on Milo Speriglio, the young detective who investigated Reeves’ death, is quite

different than how he is portrayed by Schoenberger.

“He’s given a whole back story and that’s almost a completely fictionalized character,” Schoenberger said. “We were very impressed with it; it was a smart move to create a character the audience can sympathize with.”

Speriglio himself was one of the most important sources for the authors, especially since many of

believe until they conducted further research.

The book was received very well upon its release. Schoenberger and her husband were featured on “Good Morning America” and several other television and radio programs. The Newark Star-Ledger ran a two-part series, inspired by their book, on Eddie Mannix and his mob connections in New Jersey, where he lived before moving to California.



COURTESY PHOTO • WWW.ALLPOSTERS.COM

*George Reeves, TV’s “Superman” during the 1950s, is the subject of English Professor Nancy Schoenberger’s book “Hollywood Kryptonite.”*

the other people involved are now deceased. “[Speriglio] was a young man at the time. It was his first case and he worked for the Nick Harris detection agency,” Schoenberger said. Helen Bessolo, Reeves’ mother, had hired prominent lawyer Jerry Geisler to investigate the mystery, who in turn hired Harris. “His job was to dig up as much information as possible and convince the L.A.P.D. to re-open the case,” Schoenberger said.

However, according to Schoenberger, halfway through the investigation, Geisler resigned. “He went to Helen Bessolo and said ‘you need to drop this case — you don’t want to know, but very bad people are involved and you don’t want to pursue it further,’” Schoenberger said. Speriglio was convinced that Eddie Mannix had Reeves killed, a conclusion the authors didn’t

The authors were also featured and interviewed in USA Today.

The film is based on other research and sources in addition to “Hollywood Kryptonite.” While the film is more ambiguous, Schoenberger and Kashner’s book asserts that Reeves was in fact murdered. (For a full review of the movie, see “Hollywoodland,” page 11.)

Schoenberger’s previous book, a biography of pianist Oscar Levant, is currently being optioned by Ben Stiller and Dreamworks Entertainment. Her husband is enjoying similar success with his comic novel “Sinatraland,” which is being turned into a major motion picture, the screenplay of which will be written by the couple. A new edition of “Hollywood Kryptonite” is currently available on Amazon.com.





# That Guy: Tyler Trumbo

BY TEGAN NEUSTATTER  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

THAT GUYS TEND TO HAVE EXCEPTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, AND THIS ONE IS NO DIFFERENT. FROM EDUCATING THE FRESHMEN CLASS TO INGESTING LOADS OF IRISH LAGER TO BIKING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, IT'S SAFE TO SAY TYLER TRUMBO HAS SOME STORIES TO SHARE.

**You recently finished shooting a documentary in New Bern, N.C. about the Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Tour. Tell me about that.**

Professor Zuber, who does a video production class, knows a teacher at Matthew Whaley who wanted to document the tour because his wife has multiple sclerosis. He asked if there was anyone here [who would like to film him] and since I've done a lot of video stuff around campus, I was like, "I'll do it." For most of it, I used equipment from the media center — totally professional. We would work from 5:30 in the morning until 11 at night, only stopping to eat. It was awesome.

**You participated in the Penn Ride for Cancer, a bicycle race from Philadelphia to San Francisco, which raises money for cancer research. How did that go?**

We raised about \$30,000. There were seven of us and then the driver — we had a car with us, too. We rode about 60 or 70 miles a day. I had a mountain bike, which was much harder than a road bike because it's the bigger and heavier. But it's not as hard as you think it is. The Appalachians definitely kicked my butt.

We rode for about 63 days. [At night] we mostly camped out. On the east coast there were a lot of churches that would hook us up. As we went on, like into the Midwest, we would camp out in a park.

Also, the people you meet are crazy. There was actually one other guy from William and Mary who went with us and he had his William and Mary jersey on when we met [another] guy in a small town in Kansas. We had just arrived in the town and we were unloading the car when this guy walks up to us in overalls, with really leathery, wrinkled skin and a farmer's hat on. He walked up to the guy in the William and Mary jersey and said, "I like green." And we were like, "uh ... that's a good color." Then he looked at the jersey and saw the name William

and Mary, and he said "William and Mary, they my cousins. I didn't know they named a school after 'em."

**You're also into video production. You directed the new Alcohol and Sexual Abuse prevention video for the freshmen orientation program. What went into making that?**

The Health Center gave me a script because the video is combined with a stage performance. They wanted "Colbert Report"-style bullets that came up on the side. I pretty much had free range from there. I hadn't done a project this big since high school and it was nice to have a deadline. It's almost like writing a paper, to some extent, but a much cooler paper.

**You also have another artistic ability: mocking a cappella groups. How have you employed that?**

I am in the "mockapella" group known as Wren 11. It is a group of six people who poke fun at a cappella. First off, they have people who can't sing, like me. Then they do crazy renditions of songs, such as TLC's "Waterfalls" overlaced with an improv'd scat which transitions into "Gangsta's Paradise" and ends with a Lauryn Hill song. Our other songs range from a song called "7-Day Freak Out," taken from a musical about Stonewall Jackson's life and put to the Greek National Anthem, to an explosive performance piece to one of Disney's classic songs. Our motto is "we are serious about not being serious." We took our name from performing on Wednesday at 11 on the Wren Portico after the a cappella Wren at 10. [We] used to say that Wren at 10 opened for Wren 11.

**Tell us a little bit about your study abroad experience in Ireland.**

I've never drank so much beer in my life. It's good beer, though. And the people are just so jolly. Don't go there if you're expecting the "European experience," go there if you are expecting the "Irish experience."

It's just cool to be in a place where history has been there so long that it's not a big deal. I mean it is a big deal, but people don't glorify it. I saw castles and stuff, most of which were privately owned. The coolest thing I did was I spent three days on the Dingle Peninsula. We went through farm land, herded sheep and played with country puppies.

# Ooh, you touch my tra-la-la

There are only so many times a columnist can review the basics of sex. Penis, vagina, clitoris, testicles, condoms, communication ... I know, you're bored already. Yawn, we've been there before. So, this

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate  
Prengaman

week we've got a relatively new topic to explore, with a little something for everyone to enjoy. If you're feeling a little brave and experimental, read on about glands.

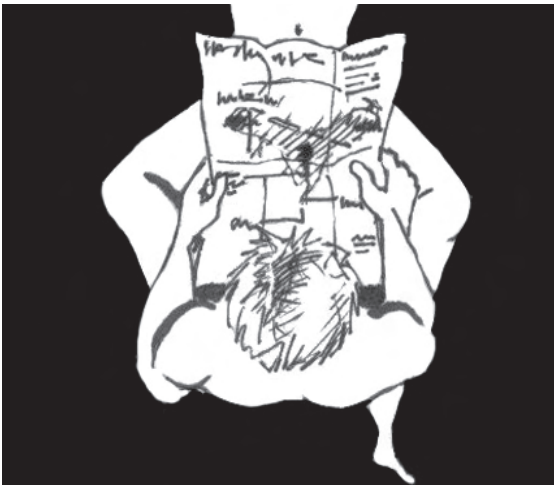
For the record, I realize that "glands" is a particularly unsexy word. I feel awkward just typing it. But, technical terminology aside, these less obvious sexual hot-spots can be really fun. The gland in question, the prostate gland, is where the seminal fluid is made and mixed with the sperm before ejaculation. Not to leave the ladies out, the para-urethral gland along the wall of

the vagina, a developmental analog of the prostate, is responsible for the pleasurable G-spot.

I'll bow to social convention (just this once) and go with the ladies first. The G-spot has been a highly controversial piece of anatomy. Some women swear by it, sexually, and other women swear they don't have one. Every woman does have a paraurethral gland, but it's proximity to the vaginal wall can vary enough to leave some women far less sensitive than others. However, here's a piece of good news about getting older: as women approach their 30s, the vaginal lining thins slightly with declining hormones, allowing for increased G-spot sensitivity. (Possibly correlated with why women reach their sexual peak around 30, as opposed to 19 in men. Sorry guys, nothing to look forward to, except 30-year-old women.)

But enough about the technicalities — how do you use it? The spot, about the size of a quarter when you're aroused (it swells up) is about a finger's length deep into the vagina, on the upper wall, if you are lying on your back. Stimulation is best done with a stroking, "come-hither" motion, either with a finger or a curved vibe. This stroking, while pleasurable, can also make you feel like you have to pee. You don't, but, if you're worried, go before you really get into it. Some women can come just from G-spot stimulation, while others enjoy it combined with clitoral play. Partners, here's an extra-credit suggestion: During oral sex, while using your lips and tongue on the clitoris and company, slide a finger in and stroke the G-spot.

Because the gland is related to prostate development, it is also capable of ejaculating a small amount of fluid. The amount varies from woman to woman, but it's totally normal. The G-spot is also very well-stimulated by a variety of sex positions, including an



upright woman-on-top. Don't give up when it starts to feel like you have to pee; staying with that motion can lead to some earth-shaking orgasms. Any girl lucky enough to have a guy with a slight upward curve in his penis is going to be enjoying her G-spot all the time.

For the gentlemen (who've hopefully been taking notes while waiting their turn), the prostate gland can be so much more than just a temporary home for sperm. During sexual activity, when the body is getting ready to ejaculate, the gland is extra-sensitive. The best way to stimulate the gland is from just slightly inside the anus.

Wait — don't get grossed out and give up; you very well might love it if you tried it. This is why guys get off during anal sex; the area is very sensitive. Your partner's well-lubricated finger can stroke the front wall of the anus with the previously mentioned "come-hither" motion, tapping into a whole range of sexual sensations you didn't know you could have.

Start slow and let yourself relax enough to enjoy it. If you need more encouragement, consider how good it feels when your partner applies some stroking pressure to the perineum (the region between your balls and ass) during oral sex. If you've never experienced this, get to it! It feels good because of the indirect prostate stimulation. Getting more direct is only going to feel better, which is where the anal play comes in.

Really, a little anal play is nothing to be afraid of. Note to partners: Try just a touch of anal contact when you're down there for some oral sex, a little stroking around the region or the occasional tongue flicker can feel really good. Obviously, talk with your partner before attempting any form of penetration, but the fore-play-style of discussion can be useful. Some men can orgasm totally from prostate stimulation, for others it just enhances the sensations of the penis-related action. In both cases, you might be pleasantly surprised by what you've been missing.

*Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She's still trying to say "glands" with a sexy look on her face.*

# WCWM

FROM PAGE 7

"We're a non-profit, educational station [that gives] audiences an opportunity to hear music they might not hear on larger stations," Gessler said.

Current A-list (frequently played) artists include scenester darlings Interpol, Xiu Xiu and Rainer Maria. In a successful attempt to out-indie itself, among WCWM's newest albums is "Monsieur Gainsbourg Revisited," an album that brings together a brilliant and diverse collection of artists to cover the French musician-cum-actor's finest. Contributors range from alt-rock star Franz Ferdinand to under-

ground rap group Gonzales, Feist & Dani.

But the programming isn't restricted to basement rock fans and post-punk hipsters — the varied weekly programming includes Matt Sherrill's "Stop Drop and Soul" and Emily Flowers' "World Music," for example.

Still, even expanding the station's scope so that listeners may tune in via Internet has yielded only lack-luster results. But then, the internet may in fact be the culprit that is forcing radio in general — not just WCWM — to head the way of the dodo.

"When you can plug your iPod into your car, do you want to listen to four songs that you don't want to listen to before listening to the

one thing you've heard 10 times?" Burks, who interned at an NPR station in Roanoke over winter break, said.

But there's still hope for radio — especially community-orientated stations like WCWM. "There's still a market for local-flavor type things," Burks said. Based on callers, the station claims a large non-student listener base — DJs have received calls from as far away as Chesterfield County, outside of Richmond. A prisoner from a nearby jail calls almost weekly with suggestions and praise.

From inside the College and out, music lovers of all tastes are starting to tune in again. Looks like that Victorian is getting a fresh coat of paint after all.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

*Junior Station Manager Adam Burks and senior Historian and Alumni Director Anne Gessler [FOREGROUND] sort through WCWM's music library, which consists of thousands of CDs and LPs collected over the years.*

# PRIDE

FROM PAGE 7

lone, crazed voice rising up through the bleachers saying things like, "Yay Tribe" or "Boo other team. Who are we playing again?" or "JMU's girlfriend is ugly," that was probably me. If you heard much ruder things, that was probably me too, but my mom reads these columns. For her sake, I will never admit that I accuse opposing teams of suffering from embarrassing sexual dysfunctions.

I have no idea how to actually cheer at a football game. I'm probably a huge embarrassment to the College and the football community in general. But I don't care — I have an awesome time at games. Trust me, it's much more fun to yell like a crazy person than to sit quietly and plan your study schedule.

Even if you don't have Tribe Pride, yell anyway. At the very least, you might drown out my cheering, and then all the Tribe fans could truly hold their heads high.

*Lauren Bell is the Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She wouldn't be caught dead in DayGlo.*

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# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL CAMPUS EDITION.

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## What’s News— *In Business and Finance*

### Ticketmaster Switches To Tune of Its Rivals

Reselling sports and concert tickets online has become a multibillion-dollar business for eBay, StubHub and other middlemen. Now the concert and sports industry—and Ticketmaster, which sells the majority of seats—are fighting to take back some of that money.

Ticketmaster is overhauling the way it sells tickets, embracing new methods that it long shunned. It is now running auctions to sell seats for roughly 30% of this year’s major music tours—including Pink Floyd’s Roger Waters, Barbra Streisand, Madonna, B.B. King and Melissa Etheridge. Ticketmaster also is letting customers resell some seats at its Web site. Since that lets fans sell tickets far above face value, Ticketmaster has joined the fight against state antiscalping laws, reversing its earlier position.

Concert promoters, performers and sports teams stand to win if the new methods at Ticketmaster reduce scalper sales—and return some of the proceeds to their own coffers.

### Summer Air Travel Wasn’t So Bad

It may have been scant comfort when you were squished in a middle seat or bumped from a flight, but airline operations this summer held up relatively well, with more than 75% of flights arriving on time.

That’s better than last year. But at the same time, more people were bumped from overbooked flights and in June complaints about surly customer service soared 82%, the Department of Transportation said.

Bottom line: Things went better in the air than on the ground.

With skyrocketing fuel prices, airfares up and planes packed, some industry watchers were predicting a horrendous summer travel season. But new data show that airlines generally were able to handle the increased traffic and most flights left on time. Still, travelers did face hassles, such as new security rules (including a ban on liquids in carry-on luggage following the Aug. 10 revelation of an alleged plot to blow up trans-Atlantic flights) and complaints of poor customer service.

### Amazon, Apple Go to the Movies

Amazon.com launched a new service offering downloads of thousands of full-length feature films and TV shows. Amazon Unbox, available at Amazon.com/Unbox, prices movies typically from \$7.99 to \$14.99. Customers can also rent movies, with new releases for \$3.99. New and old television shows from networks like Fox, CBS and MTV are available for \$1.99 each.

Apple, meanwhile, announced a deal with Walt Disney to offer movies for sale over the Internet, and unveiled a device called iTV that will display movies and TV shows purchased over the Internet on television sets; iTV will sell for \$299 and be available early next year. While companies for years have tried to provide technology for moving online content onto TV screens, many believe Apple’s track record with the iPod and iTunes Music Store could give iTV a better shot at success.

### Scandal at H-P Topples Chairman

Hewlett-Packard said Chief Executive Mark Hurd will take over as chairman in January, replacing Patricia Dunn, who came under fire for the tactics used to investigate H-P boardroom leaks.

Ms. Dunn, who will remain a director, apologized for the techniques used in the probe, which was requested by her in 2005. Private investigators impersonated board members and nine journalists to acquire their private phone records.

“Unfortunately, the investigation, which was conducted with third parties, included certain inappropriate techniques. These went beyond what we understood them to be, and I apologize that they were

### Priced Out

High ticket prices have increased revenue but kept flat the total number of spectators at North American concerts.

AVERAGE CONCERT TICKET PRICE*	PAID SEATS, IN MILLIONS
<b>2002</b>	\$46.56 66.8
<b>2003</b>	50.35 68.1
<b>2004</b>	52.39 72.2
<b>2005</b>	56.88 67.4

\* Top 100 grossing tours Source: Pollstar

employed,” Ms. Dunn said. The Justice Department has joined a probe of the matter. Separately, a House committee said it is seeking information from H-P including the identity of private investigators that the company has said it used in the investigation.

### Companies Design College Curricula

A fast-moving, competitive economy is creating a new phenomenon at colleges and universities: courses supported by, and tailored for, potential employers.

Graduate students at North Carolina State University, for example, recently began a course called Services Management, taught by a manager from IBM.

Other major corporations seeking to increase their presence on campus include Credit Suisse and BMW. But none has approached the involvement of IBM, which has been drilling its priorities into graduate and professional schools to help ease its transformation from a manufacturer of hardware and software to a provider of consulting and support services. At a recent workshop in Washington, D.C., IBM showcased related efforts under way at Arizona State University and University of California at Berkeley.

Critics worry about companies tailoring classes for their benefit. “This is a breach of academic integrity,” says Jennifer Washburn, a fellow at the New America Foundation and author of “University Inc.,” a 2005 book critical of corporate influence on education.

IBM is a big employer of North Carolina State graduates, says Ira Weiss, dean of the school’s College of Management. That, he says, is a top reason the university was eager to work with IBM to develop a curriculum in service sciences.

IBM says the curriculum can help prepare students whether or not they go to work for the company.

### Facebook Retools Privacy Features

Facebook is adding a privacy option that lets users decide how much personal information to share via two controversial new features called news feed and mini-feed.

The features add an area to certain pages within Facebook that lets users easily track, say, whether a fellow user made a new friend or broke off a relationship. They have spurred a backlash among hundreds of thousands of Facebook’s nine million-plus users, who complain that the features violate their privacy.

The new options let users decide what the Web site should make accessible through the feeds.

### Odds & Ends

A continued rise in inventories of unsold homes in August is likely to put more downward pressure on home prices in parts of the U.S. ... Segway is recalling all 23,500 of the self-balancing scooters it has shipped. A software glitch can make its wheels reverse direction.

By Jay Hershey

How to contact us: CampusEdition@dowjones.com

#### AT COLLEGEJOURNAL.COM

- How to write a business-school application essay.
- Will an M.B.A. open doors in the investment-banking field?
- A law-school grad shares his strategy for landing that first job.

## Big Banks Come to Campus

### Firms Dangle iPods And Plane Tickets; Worries About Debt

By JANE J. KIM

Students aren’t the only ones headed back to school. Financial institutions are swarming over college campuses, pushing promotions and free gifts to entice students to sign up for new bank accounts, credit cards and insurance policies. For many banks, students are one of the fastest growing business segments. Moreover, their research shows that a young adult who opens an account often remains a loyal customer for many years to come.

Consequently, banks’ campus handouts are a far cry from the free-pee-and-T-shirt fare they have traditionally given to new student customers. For opening a new checking account, KeyBank is giving away a free iPod shuffle music player, and Chase is offering a dozen 12-packs of Coca-Cola. Bank of America will pay \$50 to students who open accounts online, and Sovereign Bank is dangle free airline tickets.

Banks also are expanding their physical presence on campuses. Citibank, which launched a student Web site last month, is visiting about 200 campuses this year—double the number of prior years. Chase has stepped up its school visits this year by about 30% from last year. The bank recently created a new marketing position to focus exclusively on college and high-school kids.

#### Concert Sponsor

Some insurers also are beginning to focus on the student market. State Farm last month kicked off a marketing campaign aimed at teaching young adults about auto and renters insurance. This summer the company began sponsoring rock concerts in college communities.

The targeting of students comes at a time when young people are using more financial products at an earlier age. A savings account was long the extent of most new college

### Student Accounts

Financial institutions are wooing students with an array of perks and freebies. Here are a few of their offerings:

COMPANY	PRODUCT	PROMOTION
<b>Bank of America</b> <i>bankofamerica.com</i>	CampusEdge Checking account has no minimum-balance requirements. No monthly service fees are charged for five years and the bank will refund the first service or overdraft fee.	Offering a \$50 credit if the account is opened online. At select campus events, students who open an account are entered to win an iPod.
<b>Chase</b> <i>chase.com</i>	College Checking has no monthly service fees for one year.*	Offering a dozen 12-packs of Coca-Cola.
<b>Citibank</b> <i>citibank.com/campus</i>	College Student Account with no monthly fees or minimum-balance requirements while students are enrolled in college.	Offering beach towels, laundry bags and message boards.
<b>Discover</b> <i>discovercard.com</i>	Discover Student card	Offering 5% cash back (up to \$2,000) on tuition paid with the card and on other purchases at retail partners.
<b>HSBC Bank</b> <i>us.hsbc.com</i>	Student Checking account with no monthly fees or minimum-balance requirements; includes free incoming wire transfers.	Offering HSBC laundry bags on college campuses. Eligible students will be entered into a sweepstakes to win one of 10 \$1,000 gift cards.

\*After that, the \$10 monthly fee is waived if the account is linked to a parent or guardian account.

Source: the companies

students’ financial holdings. Now, nearly a third of students who start college already have a credit card—roughly a 50% increase over the past five years, says Robert Hammer, an industry consultant. By the time they turn seniors, a full three-quarters of students are now packing plastic.

“Young adults tend to be very loyal to their first card,” says Ed Stolbof, senior vice president of marketing for Discover Financial Services. “It’s really important to get to card members as soon as we can in their credit cycle.”

#### Some Concerns

Some states and universities have tried to limit the influence that financial institutions have on campus out of concern that the heightened marketing activity may contribute to students leaving school burdened by student loans and credit-card debt. A handful of states, including New York and Illinois, have passed laws restricting the marketing of credit cards on campuses and several other states have proposed similar legislation this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

“When you have the gifts associated with a checking account or a credit card, it shortcuts the stu-

dents’ thought process on whether they’re making the best decision” about that product, says Ken McElowney, executive director of Consumer Action, a San Francisco advocacy group.

Mario Colosimo, a senior at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, shopped around for a checking account last month before signing up with Zions Bank because it had branches near his home and didn’t charge monthly fees for maintaining balances. “What also attracted me were the direct deposit and a really good Internet banking Web site,” says the 20-year-old.

#### Know the Terms

For students signing up for new accounts, it’s important to understand the contract terms to avoid getting hit with extra charges. Although many of the student checking accounts have no monthly fees or minimum balance requirements, for instance, students may have to sign up for certain services, such as enrolling for online statements, or other products in order to qualify.

Some banks have additional enticements. Wachovia and Bank of America offer to waive the first overdraft or bounced check fee. Others, including KeyBank, will reimburse a certain number of fees for using

ATMs outside of the banks’ networks. Some insurers, including State Farm and Allstate, will provide discounts on auto insurance premiums for students getting good grades.

And, since parents often influence where their kids bank, firms are offering incentives if both have accounts at the same bank. Chase will waive a \$10 monthly service fee and provide free online bill pay on a student checking account if it is linked to a parent’s account at the bank. Under Wachovia’s “College Connections” program, students get 12 free out-of-network ATM transactions each month if their checking account is linked to a parent’s account at the bank.

Students shopping for a credit card should get one with a low credit limit so they don’t overspend, suggests Marie O’Malley, vice president of marketing for Nellie Mae, a unit of student-loan company SLM Corp. They also should ask to have their names taken off any lists that could be sold to vendors in order to prevent solicitations from other banks and credit cards, she says.

Some offerings: U.S. Bancorp’s college card limits spending to \$300. USAA offers a credit card that starts with a \$500 limit for freshmen that gradually increases with each grade level.

## BRIEFS

### Peace vigil

CF4P, the local Community of Faith for Peace organization, is holding a peace vigil to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. The event will take place from 5 to 6 p.m., Sept. 21, in front of the Wren Building. E-mail Stephanie Byers at slbyer@wm.edu to learn more.

### Voter registration info

Want to vote in state and local elections? Registration and absentee ballot application forms are available in the Dean of Students Office and the Office of Residence Life in the Campus Center. Forms are also online at [www.sbe.state.va.us](http://www.sbe.state.va.us) and at <http://web.wm.edu/deanofstudents/voter.php>. The registration deadline for the next election is Oct. 10. Call the Dean of Students Office at x2510 or the Williamsburg Registrar at 220-6157 with questions.

### Washington program info session

There will be an information session on the “W&M in Washington” program at 5 p.m., Sept. 19, in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. The session will provide more details about the spring semester program and feature a talk by music professor Anne Rasmussen on “Washington and the Arts: The Intersection of the Global and the Local.” Contact Roxanne Adler at [roadle@wm.edu](mailto:roadle@wm.edu) or 202-939-4001 with any questions.

### President’s office hours and lunches

President Gene Nichol is holding office hours to meet with students. Interested individuals and groups can arrange an office appointment of up to 15 minutes anytime from 1 to 2 p.m., Sept. 19, or from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Sept. 27. President Nichol will also be hosting a series of student lunches at his home. Limited to 10 students, the first lunch of the semester will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Sept. 28. To set up a date and time, contact Carla Jordan at x1254 or [cajord@wm.edu](mailto:cajord@wm.edu).

### Knitting class

“Knitting Know How,” an evening of knitting lore, tricks and ideas, will take place at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. Naomi Taub, the master knitter of the Williamsburg Knitting Guild, will present an overview of yarns, needles, patterns and other practical tips. No reservations are necessary and the program is free of charge. Refreshments will be available. Contact the reference desk at 259-4050 for more information.

### Harvest festival run and concert

The first annual Riverside Harvest Festival will be held at the Williamsburg Winery Sept. 23. The festival will feature two running races, a live concert by the Gin Blossoms, and a variety of handmade crafts and food for sale. The one-mile Great Wolf

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# Timberlake justifies ‘Sex’ symbol status



COURTESY PHOTO • WWW.ZONE1061.COM  
“FutureSex/LoveSounds,” Justin Timberlake’s follow up to 2002’s “Justified,” exudes Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye and, of course, sex.

By PAT WALSH  
THE FLAT HAT

Despite many music critics who argue otherwise, Justin Timberlake’s “FutureSex/LoveSounds” not only solidifies his place as the Prince of Pop (second only to Michael Jackson), but earns him the appropriate title of King of Sex.

It has been almost four years since the release of Timberlake’s multi-platinum debut album “Justified.” While the phenomenal success of “Justified” helped to prove Timberlake’s abilities as a solo artist, it inadvertently set the bar for his sophomore album at an almost insurmountable height — the key word being “almost.”

Aided by veteran hip-hop producers Timbaland, JAWBreakers and Rick Rubin, as well as collaboration with such big names as T.I., Will.I.Am and Three 6 Mafia, “FutureSex/LoveSounds” will likely top the charts for weeks to come.

More than on “Justified,” or any album released by \*NSYNC for that matter, much of Timberlake’s new album plays with a dark maturity that commands respect in any genre. The record’s first single, “Sexyback,” already achieved widespread radio notoriety and is one example of Timberlake’s new, but always

recognizable, style. With lyrics like, “You see these shackles baby I’m your slave/I’ll let you whip me if I misbehave,” and the occasional well-placed “mother-fucker,” “Sexyback” accomplishes its goal of distancing Timberlake from any and all presumptions of boyish innocence.

Other tracks such as “Sexy Ladies/Let Me Talk to You” and “Love Stoned/I Think She Knows” follow the same intense Timbaland-based beats that make “Sexyback” an addictive, powerhouse hit. “Chop Me Up,” the song with lyrical help from Three 6 Mafia and Timbaland, is the rawest and grittiest track on the new record. Lyrics such as, “‘Cause you’re the worst best girlfriend I ever had/Harder to quit, the cigarettes and green bags/Harder to escape the jail cells and bills,” prove not only that Three 6 brings street quality to any song, but also that Timberlake can adjust to a “thug” mentality with relative ease.

As much as Timberlake’s hip-hop infused tracks speak loudly enough themselves, he manages to incorporate several songs that equally highlight his range in the R&B realm. “Damn Girl,” “Until the End of Time” and “(Another Song) All Over Again” are best described as hybrid forms of Marvin Gaye and D’Angelo that both soothe and inspire. “Losing My Way” and “(Another Song)

All Over Again,” the final two tracks on “FutureSex/LoveSounds,” are the most “real” recordings to come out of Timberlake in the last decade. With their study of debilitating drug use, religious insecurity and remorseful regret, these tracks play as if read from the pages of a diary.

In terms of describing the album as a collective work, it seems appropriate that “FutureSex/LoveSounds” was given a dual title. While the first half of the record can be mostly grouped into the category of “FutureSex,” with its intense beats, slightly static vocals and intense, adult-oriented material, the latter half creates a more intimate and honest feeling that can only be described as “LoveSounds.” As stated before, the entire record represents a new Justin Timberlake, but it is the “LoveSounds” portion in which “Justified” fans will find the most apparent resemblance to the Justin of the past.

For the millions of Timberlake fans who have patiently waited for a follow-up record, the last four years have seemed longer than usual. But with all confidence and assurance, I can attest that the end product has certainly been worth the wait. “FutureSex/LoveSounds” raises Timberlake to an even higher musical status while squelching all memories of his former band.

# Brody, Affleck thrill in murder mystery ‘Hollywoodland’

By BETH SUTHERLAND  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Just how worthwhile could it be to watch an actor playing an actor playing a role? If the movie in question is Allen Coulter’s “Hollywoodland,” there’s no question at all. The film is powerful and poignant, dealing with the characters’ humanities rather than the sensationalism they stir. Even under a web of conspiracy and deception lies the simplest of truths: people fail and redemption is a choice.

Though the piece is a work of cinematic brilliance, it is really the story that moves the audience. It covers the real life tale of Superman star George Reeves (Ben Affleck) and explores his mysterious death. The movie is based off of a book written by Nancy Schoenberger, an English Professor at the College (see “Kryptonite” page 7). The murder-mystery itself is the skeletal foundation of the investigation into the hearts and minds of the two main characters.

George Reeves is portrayed only in flashbacks. Though only recently deceased, Reeves is already a legend, an elusive object of public interest. The other main character, private detective Louis Simo (Adrien Brody), makes a living as a sort of false muckraker, leading people into speculation to keep the money coming. The characters’ stories cross, however, when Simo takes up Reeves’ tale and thinks he has stumbled on a big story — that Reeves was murdered and did not, commit suicide.

Thus two inextricably interlocked tales are told at once. One seeks self-actualized cinematic success; the other, a good story and a buck. The action occurs within the characters’ minds. It is amazing to watch two rapidly developing characters grow and learn; both very are lovable and sympathetic. The true genius of the film, however, is thrown under the light almost completely by the ending.

As the audience watches Simo piece together the story, he seems more the main character than Reeves. The indelibly stunning Adrien Brody plays Simo. Brody’s lithe sarcasm embodies all the cynicism of a survivalist alley-cat type. He’s just a guy out to make a buck, who can’t understand why his son is upset about the death of Superman and who gets swept away by his own stories. He does, at least, discover himself by the end of the film. Ben Affleck plays Reeves wonderfully. It’s refreshing to see him in a complex and serious role.

Unlike the initially oblivious Simo, Reeves is the character who so badly wants to discover himself and reach his full potential, but he must constantly deal with the fact that he is only able to view himself via the silver screen. He can’t escape the box in which his audience and lover (Diane Lane) would place him — and meets a tragic, and perhaps pathetic, end. Affleck is convincingly affectatious as an up-and-coming playboy movie star and as a stifled and frustrated artist. Diane Lane is not to be forgotten

either. Though her character is secondary, she is complicated enough to deserve a story all to herself. She is the immortal aging heroine — past her prime and totally self-conscious. Still beautiful, but forsaken by her husband for a younger mistress, her tragically possessive hold on Reeves is part of what brings about his eventual downfall.

Though it is not the focal point of the story, the sorrow

of the children at their hero’s passing is incredibly piercing. In a very adult tale, the worries of children seem small and irrelevant when juxtaposed with their fathers’ desperate attempts to evade Hollywood thugs, grapple with the media, put food on the table, and they are not. It is the children, and only the children, who appreciated the genius of Reeves. Not because the story of Superman is a story

for children, but because only they, in their simplicity, can pay proper homage to this archetypal figure of goodness and heroism. Simo’s saddened son has a story all his own and the writer of the screenplay consistently refers back to it consistently. There is tension in the air and all is not right with the world — but only the children have the means to see this for what it is and to simply mourn.

It would be easy to take the technical beauties of “Hollywoodland” for granted in a distracted examination of the fascinating themes and issues it confronts. Let it not be ignored, therefore, that the costumes were amazing, the music compelling, and the direction and (especially) editing phenomenal — all contributed to its overall success. I will definitely be watching for it during Oscar season.



COURTESY PHOTO • MIRAMAX  
Adrien Brody (RIGHT) stars as Louis Simo, the vainly cynical and sarcastic private detective set on uncovering the murder of “Superman” George Reeves, played by Ben Affleck. The film features a strong cast that also includes Academy Award nominee Diane Lane. The film opened last Friday and came in second at the box office, grossing \$5,926,177 in its first weekend.

# Gymwear: a potential fashion nightmare with room for style

## FROM THE RACK



Lisa Griffin

Is it possible to sweat effectively when you look like a slacker? My tennis coach in high school did not think so. Shye once told us, while pitching expensive new uniforms, that everyone plays better when they feel like they look cute. As you may be thinking, I was concerned that this was the most superficial, tacky pitch possible. However, I have come to use this statement as my mantra for functional fashion.

Functional fashion is too often portrayed as flat shoes, khaki separates and everything tucked in and belted. This interpretation is a recipe for practical plainness rather than clothing choices that are wearable and portray the desired image. Fashion is a form of art that we consciously or unconsciously use to portray ourselves to the world between trips into the wardrobe. Hopefully, we do this in a way that portrays the right message and makes the individual feel good.

With this definition in mind, our new “necessary” uniforms were two-piece sets of shiny spandex that encased the team like

double-ply plastic wrap for each match. The outfit was missing the key element that defines the difference between looking cute and really feeling cute: fit.

After visiting our brand new Rec Center, I feel this functional fashion necessity has not quite been processed across campus. Whether you choose to sweat it out in sequins or sweats, fit is absolutely key to feeling comfortable in the gym, and in attracting the right kind of attention. You can portray your personality through color, bedazzlement or the lack of either. Fit is simply the basis to appearing and feeling professional, or to successfully faking it.

Spandex, similar to my plastic wrap tennis ensemble, is the downfall of too many workout enthusiasts. Although a particular cotton stretch tank top may suck you in and perk you up in all the right places in the calm, air-conditioned dressing room, do not be fooled. As soon as you hit the gym and raise your heart rate, the shirt will rise to the occasion with you.

The bottom half is of equal importance. Daisy Duke length gym shorts rolled up for full

effect are not a fashion choice in which I would personally partake at any point, anywhere, ever. It is imperative that these shorts do not venture into the Rec Center. The shorts may seem like a good choice while standing in front of a mirror, but once you hit the 6 percent incline on the elliptical trainer, fabric will be waning and most of the gym will be viewing more than you intended.

On the other end of the spectrum are baggy sweats. Baggy sweats erase and expand your silhouette; you cannot possibly feel that you are achieving your workout goal with four feet of fabric flapping behind you.

As you strain muscles, they expand — sweat can cause fabric to stick or slide, and despite your best efforts nothing is going to fit as it did in your resting state. Pieces worth trying are extra long tank tops that are less than 50 percent spandex. Shorts are the most obvious choice for summer workouts, but choose bottoms in which you feel comfortable bending and jumping, so that those around you are not forced to avert their eyes.

Boys, while you do have looser fit standards regarding workout wear, you are not exempt from appropriate fitness fashion requirements. Standing in line to go into the Rec Center, I stood behind a male student wearing a shirt with the sleeves cut off in a jagged pattern and shorts with holes in them; it appeared both pieces had been worn while painting a house. You can easily create a similar, but more respectable ensemble by wearing an actual sleeveless shirt and gym shorts sans holes. It helps to wash each article, too. Contrary to what I’m afraid may be a popular opinion, wearing dirty, ratty clothes do not exude the image of a seasoned gymrat. You just look lazy and unprofessional.

Fashion in the gym may seem secondary to your actual purpose of exercising. However, this form of functional fashion has personal benefits and will help you attract attention for the right reasons.

Lisa Griffin is a sophomore at the College. Along with wearing proper workout attire to the gym, she endorses not wearing gymwear to class.





**SINGLED OUT**  
**Beck — “Nausea”**  
From his *The Information* LP

Beck is back with his new album, “The Information,” due to be released Oct. 3. Once again, Beck has changed his musical formula for the release, harkening back to Mellow Gold-style freak/nerd-folk, pulling in deep, ugly guitars and poor production, as opposed to the 2005’s shiny “Guero.”

— compiled by conor mckay

iTUNES TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Money Maker* — **Ludacris**
2. *Continuum* — **John Mayer**
3. *FutureSex/LoveSounds* — **Justin Timberlake**
4. *Buttons* — **The Pussycat Dolls**
5. *Show Stopper* — **Danity Kane**
6. *Ain't No Other Man* — **Christina Aguilera**
7. *Grey's Anatomy Volume 2* — **Various Artists**
8. *Shoulder Lean* — **Young Dro**
9. *Come Back to Me* — **Vanessa Hudgns**
10. *Welcome to the Black Parade* — **My Chemical Romance**

# HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

**Baby, one more time**

As ex-boyfriend Justin Timberlake is busy bringing sexy back, Britney Spears did it again: another baby. Husband Kevin Federline insisted Britney’s baby would not be born until Halloween — but evidently it was to trick the press, making the early September birth quite a treat. Spears’ prerogative was to have the baby by cesarean section. Contrary to rumors, the baby is not a girl. So far there is no word on the baby boy’s name ... but our bet is on Bubba.



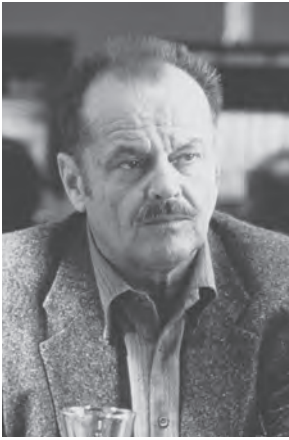
**Just her luck**

Turns out the thief who stole Lindsay Lohan’s handbag outside a London airport was not heading to the projection room above the auditorium. Instead, the actress’s Hermes Birkin bag was found in a parking lot outside the terminal. Though traveling with boyfriend Harry Morton, her man did not chase the thief down like Aaron Samuels did. Unfortunately for LiLo, \$954,000 worth of bling and asthma medication was in the bag; it has not been reported whether anything was missing from the relocated bag.



**Aguilera loses her vibe**

Staying in her bottle for the time being, Christina Aguilera won’t be seeing her reflection on the October edition of Vibe. It looks like the star will have to go back to basics to promote her new album after Vibe’s new owners ditched her for the cover. Legal controversy has ensued, as Aguilera’s lawyers accuse the magazine of playing dirty and breaching their contract. This change is making the singer feel so emotional ... it’s understandable that what the girl wants is just to promote her new album.



**As bad as it gets**

Actor Jack Nicholson needed more than a few good men to help him through his recent pains. The shining actor checked into a Los Angeles hospital with an infection recently. With his new movie “The Departed” about to arrive, Nicholson’s life should be as good as it gets. The actor is under a lot of stress, with his next movie, “The Bucket List” underway. Hopefully, one more will fly for Nicholson but apparently, something’s gotta give.

— compiled by megan doyle

WCWM 90.9 FM  
FALL 2006  
PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY  
Mid.-2 a.m.: James Chase Coleman  
“Freedom of Music”  
2-4 p.m.: Anne Gessler  
“Music from Under Anne’s Bed”  
4-6 p.m.: Mika Mason  
“Naive Melody”  
6-8 p.m.: Barbara Zidek  
8-10 p.m.: Matt Sherrill  
“Stop Drop and Soul”

10 p.m. - Mid.: Chris Larkum  
“100% Natural, Good Time Family Hour”

MONDAY  
6-8 p.m.: Jacob Charron  
“A Veritable Cornucopia of Sound”  
8-10 p.m.: Diane O’neal  
10 p.m. - Mid.: Rob Simmons  
“Continuum Presents”

TUESDAY  
2-4 p.m.: Evan Feldman  
“Colonial Classics”  
4-6 p.m.: Kate Leary  
6-8 p.m.: Sean Donnelly  
“Measured Measures”  
8-10 p.m.: Drew Taylor  
“The Gilded Palace of Sin”  
10 p.m. - Mid.: Josh Specht and David Sievers

WEDNESDAY  
10-Noon: Graham DeZarn  
12-2 p.m.: Emily Flowers  
“World Music”  
2-3 p.m.: Eric Van Orman  
4-6 p.m.: Michelle Kelley  
“Jojo’s Punk Rock Hour”  
6-8 p.m.: John Bell  
“Alphabet Soup”  
8-10 p.m.: Claire White

“Soundgasm”  
10 p.m. - Mid.: Brian Kelley  
“Cadmium’s Last Stand”

THURSDAY  
6-8 p.m.: Natt Blair  
“The Conspiracy to Keep You Poor and Stupid”  
10 p.m.-12: Taurin Barrera  
“Nasty Boy Remix”

FRIDAY  
2-4 p.m.: Patrick Donaldson  
“Shakedown Street”  
5-6 p.m.: Sandy Lesberg  
“Sandy Lesberg’s World”  
8-10 p.m.: Rob Simmons  
“Pre-Game Show”

SATURDAY  
2-4 p.m.: Andy Beers and David McClendon

“The Massive Saxophone”  
4-6 p.m.: Devin Oller  
“Word Play”  
6-8 p.m.: M.A. Rodabaugh  
“Mood Swing”  
8-10 p.m.: Josh Allen  
“All Your Base Are Belong To Us”  
10 p.m.-12.: Adam Kane

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Why, you may be asking yourself, did they take away our very identity? Well, apparently the feathers were offensive, for reasons which I couldn't quite fathom at first. For weeks after

The College's official press release quoted Bill Walker, associate vice president of public affairs at the time, as saying, "It boggles our minds that the NCAA would find objectionable what William and Mary does, and at the same time find acceptable what schools like Florida

*Brad Clark is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat. He has no idea how. He thinks most people are probably just too lazy to read this far into the paper.*

<i>Field Hockey</i>		
<b>Richmond</b>	<b>Sat 9/16</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
Virginia	Wed 9/20	7:30 p.m.
<i>Women's Soccer</i>		
<b>Princeton</b>	<b>Sun 9/17</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>
Drexel	Fri 9/22	4 p.m.
<b>Bold denotes home game</b>		

1. **William and Mary**
2. University of Virginia
3. N.C. State University
4. Duke University
5. Liberty University
6. University of Louisville
7. Norfolk State University
8. Wake Forest University
9. Eastern Kentucky Univ.
10. James Madison University
11. Virginia Tech
12. Coastal Carolina University
13. UNC Chapel Hill
14. Clemson University
15. UNC Charlotte

This weekend stirs excitement for senior libero Kathleen Hawley, who needs just seven digs to match the school record set by Jennifer Tornis in 1991. Having already set the records for single-season (616) and single-match (39) digs, Hawley has proven her individual role to the team. Tribe volleyball will return home this weekend to compete against the Hofstra University Pride (5-4, 1-0) tonight at 7 p.m. and the Northeastern University Huskies (2-6, 0-1) Saturday at 3 p.m.



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So what should the College do about the NCAA's feathers ruling? See HOME FIELD, page 13.



NICOLE SCHEER • THE FLAT HAT  
The Tribe ran past Radford University Sept. 3, winning 2-0. The team now stands at 5-1 for the season and is ranked 17th in the nation.

## Field Hockey jumps out to 5-1 start; ranked 17th in national coaches poll

BY JESSICA HECHT  
THE FLAT HAT

Keeping tradition alive, the field hockey team was successful in its home opener, rallying for back-to-back wins against Davidson College and Radford University. Even Tropical Depression Ernesto was powerless to stop the Tribe, as it persevered through torrential rain to defeat Davidson Sept. 1. This marked the eighth consecutive year that the Tribe won its first home game, getting the College off to a 3-0 start.

Thirteen minutes into the first half against Davidson, senior forward Gina Cimeralli blasted the ball into the back of the net for her fourth goal of the season, giving the Tribe a 1-0 lead. She scored her second goal with 10 minutes remaining in the first. A few minutes later, senior forward and captain Maggie Long took the ball in front of the crease and whipped it in to make the score 3-0 in favor of the Tribe. In the final seconds of play, freshman midfielder Courtney Farino scored her first career goal off a pass from Cimeralli to give the Tribe a 4-0 victory.

The College sealed the deal

again Sunday in a 2-0 victory over local rival Radford. Although the game was scoreless in the first half, junior defender Laura Kastelic converted a penalty stroke in the second to put the Tribe ahead. After some missed opportunities, the Tribe scored its second and final goal with 10 minutes remaining. Assisted by freshman Sarah Louie, freshman Wesley Drew tallied her first career goal to secure the win for the Tribe.

“We concentrate on the little things that will lead us to victory,” Head Coach Peel Hawthorne said. “If we pay attention to the details and keep our intensity up, everything will fall into place.”

The Tribe is certainly on its way, as the College was named to both the STX/NFHCA Top 20 and the Womensfieldhockey.com standings. Ranked no. 17 in both polls, the College is one of only four CAA teams ranked in the national top 20.

Last weekend, the Tribe travelled north to play a pair of away games in New Jersey. Its first stop was Piscataway to battle Rutgers University (3-2). In the first 15 minutes, the Scarlet Knights had three attempts on goal, all blocked by junior goalkeeper Gwen Hunter.

It wasn't until the 28th minute of play that senior captain Becky Van Zee tallied her first season goal to initiate scoring.

Later in the second half, junior Kim Hedley scored what would be the last goal of the game, assisted by Cimarelli. With a 2-0 win over Rutgers, the College set out to play on Princeton University turf for the first time since 1989.

Although both teams had penalty attempts in the first half, the game remained scoreless at half-time. The Tribe fell short again in the second half, missing three shots in a 10-minute span. It wasn't until the 67th minute that Princeton's Paige Schmidt got past Hunter to score the game-winning goal. This was the first goal the Tribe allowed in three games, ending the College's 4-0 winning streak.

“Princeton played tight defense and was extremely physical,” said Hawthorne. “We out-posessed them and we were on the attack for a while. If we had a little more time, it might have been a different game.”

Coach Hawthorne has the utmost confidence in the Tribe as they prepare to play no. 19 University of Richmond, this

weekend. The Spiders (2-2) are the first of many NFHCA-ranked teams the College will face this season.

“We've taken great strides in the right direction,” Hawthorne said. “If we can stay healthy and focused, we could do very well.”

The Tribe faces the Spiders at Busch Field tomorrow at 1 p.m.

### Field Hockey STX/NFHCA Division I Top 20 Coaches Poll

1. University of Maryland
1. Wake Forest Univ. (tie)
3. Old Dominion University
4. UNC Chapel Hill
5. Duke University
6. Ohio State University
7. Penn State University
8. Boston College
9. University of Connecticut
10. University of Virginia
11. University of Louisville
12. American University
13. James Madison University
14. Indiana University
15. Univ. of Calif. (Berkeley)
16. Providence College
17. William & Mary
18. Hofstra University
19. University of Richmond
20. Villanova University

## No. 18 women's soccer finishes road trip 3-1

BY MOLLY LARSON  
THE FLAT HAT

During this past week's demanding schedule of four consecutive away games, the women's soccer team took home not only a new ranking spot at no.18, but also three more wins to improve their record to an impressive 5-1. The Tribe's teamwork and perseverance produced a 1-0 victory over Vanderbilt University, a 2-1 victory over LaSalle University and a 2-0 victory over Colgate University — three important wins against strong competition.

Head Coach John Daly explained the Tribe's success by saying that the team members “have been working very hard and developing as a team.”

In the Tribe's 1-0 triumph over Vanderbilt, CAA women's soccer co-player of the week sophomore forward Claire Zimmeck fired the team up right away, scoring within the first three minutes. The team's stingy defense, combined with goalie Meghan Walker's second consecutive shutout performance of the season, ensured victory against the Commodores.

Unfortunately, the Tribe experienced their first loss of the season at the hands of no.16 Auburn University Sept. 3, but not without a tough fight.

Freshman Krissy Vornadore started the team off on the right foot with her goal, skillfully assisted by Zimmeck. The Tigers later came back to tie the game with only eight minutes left, sending the teams into an intense double overtime. After long minutes of grueling play, Auburn's Caitlin King sealed the game for the Tigers with a winning goal.

“We came out, scored right away and held the lead until the last eight minutes when they got a goal, so they had that advantage of momentum going into overtime. Our keeper [sophomore Meghan Walker] made some incredible saves and really kept us in the game,” sophomore back Danielle Collins said of the Auburn game.

In the Tribe's third consecutive away game against LaSalle Sept. 8, the team came back stronger than ever. In the 44th minute, junior midfielder Donna Mataya, assisted by senior midfielder Tiffany Chudoba, slammed in the first goal of the game. After LaSalle's Dana Giordana scored in the 60th minute, the two teams battled neck and neck. Just as overtime was in sight, senior Katie Hogwood scored an incredible game-winning goal, assisted by Collins. So far this season, the Tribe has fired a total of 58 shots on goal, 16 of them coming from Hogwood. The Tribe offense was clearly fired up for this game, as they had twice as many shots against LaSalle as they had against Auburn in their previous match. Hogwood, senior back Anna Young and Walker were each selected to the all-tournament team.

The Tribe demonstrated their willpower against Colgate on Sunday, ending the weekend by beating the Raiders 2-0. The Tribe defense was impenetrable once again, while the offense sealed the game with two goals. Freshman midfielder Sarah Quinlan scored her first goal of the season. Later in the first half, sophomore midfielder Abby Lauer pounded an incredible corner kick, which Mataya headed in for the final goal. The win against Colgate marked Walker's third shutout of the season — quite a feat considering the Tribe has played only six games thus far. Walker tagged two shutouts in the past week and has recorded 23 saves and allowed only four goals this season.

“Outstanding performances from Meghan Walker in goal and strong leadership from captains Anna Young and Katie Hogwood” will help, Daly said, as the women's soccer team faces two tough home games this weekend, tonight at 7 p.m. against North Carolina State University and Sunday at noon against Princeton University.



ALLISON VEINOTE • THE FLAT HAT  
The women's soccer team is ranked no. 18 nationally with a 5-1 record.

## Independent baseball league provides refreshing break from MLB

### FROM THE SIDELINES



CARL R. SIEGMUND

Midway through my long, awkward hug this summer with a mascot named Suntan, I realized what I love and hate about watching the sport of baseball. Now that we are facing a media onslaught that ESPN calls the “Hunt for October,” I'm wishing I could rewind the clock a couple of months to this moment.

Suntan, not to be confused with his fellow mascot Sunburn, is a big, brown, cuddly bear. Both mascots walk around the stands and on top of the dugouts at all the Traverse City, Michigan Beach Bums' home games.

These two mascots are the faces of this franchise, which just played its inaugural season in the Frontier League, an amalgamation of independent baseball teams in the Midwest. Independent baseball gives young players, most right out of college, a shot at affiliated baseball. A handful of players from the league have been signed by Major League franchises — including, most notably, Brendan Donnelly, who pitches for the Los Angeles Angels of

Anaheim.

For me, the biggest allure of going to Beach Bums' games and independent league baseball is the atmosphere at the ballpark. I go to a big-league game to watch big-name stars, but I feel very distant from the action. At Bums' games, kids walk out on the field during the seventh inning stretch to sing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” free T-shirts are hand-tossed (not shot by a cannon), players teach skill clinics to young kids before game time and occasionally big bears walk up to unsuspecting fans and try to pick them up.

Going to an independent baseball game is about more than just watching the play on the field. It's about soaking up the sights and sounds around you — like watching the little girl seated in front of you dribble ice cream down her face — without feeling like you missed out on something or wasted your money.

In short, it's all about getting local residents,

including many non-baseball fans, out to the ballpark with reasonably priced tickets and the promise of family fun. I think that's something that is sorely missed in Major League Baseball. Across the country, independent teams have let fans vote for their starting lineup on the internet, and in New Hampshire, one team signed U.S. Olympian Bode Miller to a one-day contract. Another owner even drummed up the idea of playing part of a game on Xbox.

These innovative marketing practices are crucial to independent baseball franchises because they operate in a sink or swim environment. For example, the Chillicothe Paints of Ohio is the only team that remains from the original Frontier League, created just over a decade ago. If the Beach Bums are to survive, they must continue to find new ways to attract fans. So far they have done well, drawing over 4,000 fans per game in a city of approximately 15,000.

Above all else, the beauty of each Frontier

League game comes from the feeling that it's simply for fun and means little in the scope of the larger sports world. You get the feeling that you could run into the starting catcher at Wal-Mart and have a conversation with him about bass fishing. And you can hug a mascot without feeling creeped out. Hours away from a big league club, the Beach Bums play baseball in its purest form. No hype. No bullshit wild card teams. No lucrative contracts.

It's a refreshing change of pace from a sports world that turns every Yankees vs. Red Sox game into a life or death affair. I'm not suggesting that MLB should let its players stay with host families like the Frontier League does, and I'm not advocating cherry pie-eating contests between innings. I just think that if baseball took itself a little less seriously, it might be a little more fun to watch.

Carl R. Siegmund is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat. His love affair with Michigan is endless.